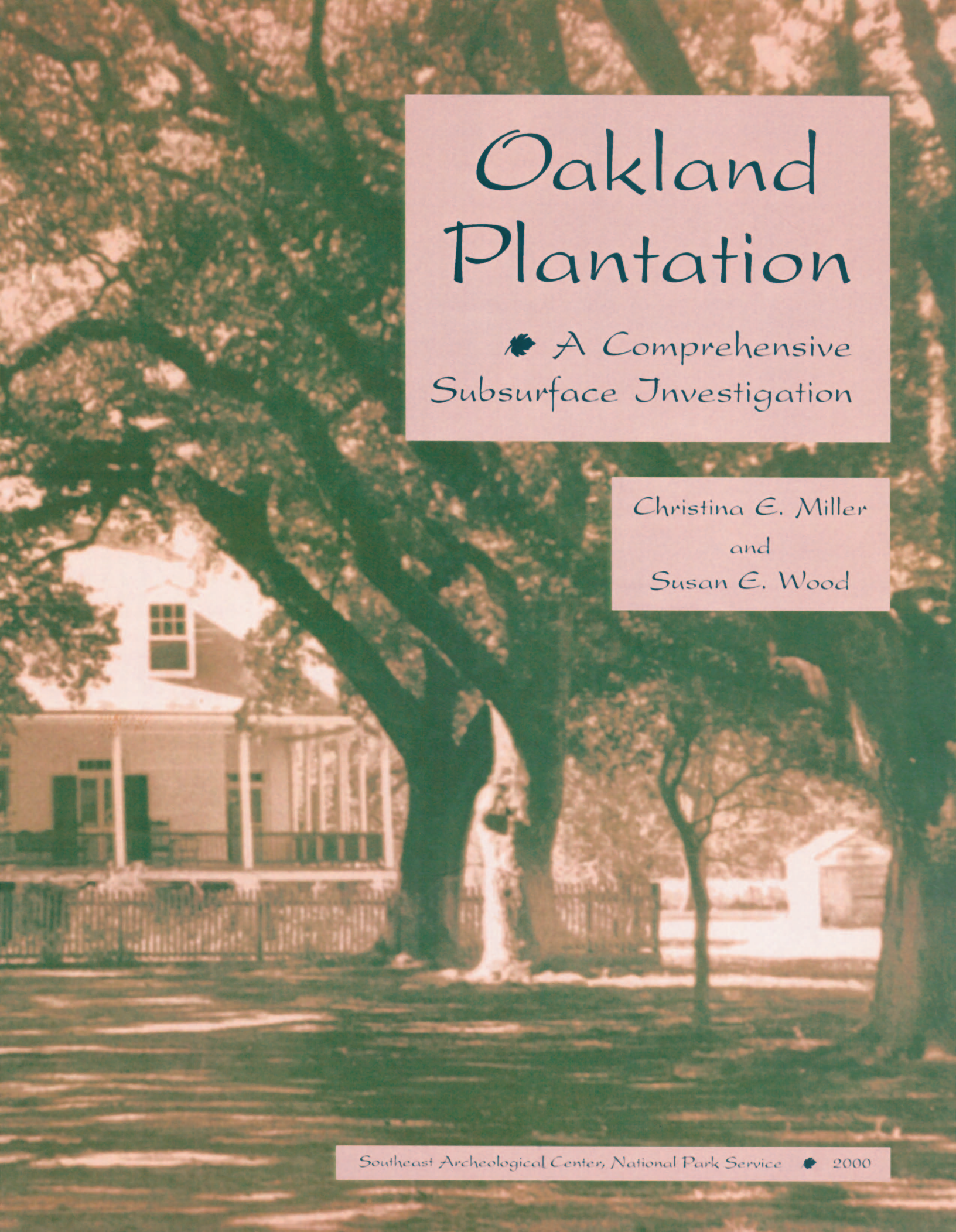

Oakland Plantation

A Comprehensive Subsurface Investigation

Christina E. Miller
and
Susan E. Wood

Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service • 2000

Oakland Plantation

A Comprehensive Subsurface Investigation

Cane River Creole National Historical Park
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

State Site 16NA552
SEAC Accession No. 1304

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and

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Southeast Archeological Center

The Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) is a support operation of the National Park Service's Southeast Region. In assisting parks with their cultural resource management needs, SEAC facilitates long-term protection of archeological resources and compiles and utilizes the archeological information obtained from these resources. In addition to annually generating numerous archeological reports, as mandated by federal law and park operations, SEAC is the repository for over six million artifacts that make up the Southeast Region's research collections and contribute to its cultural database. SEAC is staffed by professional NPS archeologists and regularly employs archeology students from Florida State University and other anthropology programs throughout the Southeast.

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Foreword

This report is the second of a planned series of four volumes describing the Southeast Archeological Center's research at Cane River Creole National Historical Park between 1996 and 1999. *A Comprehensive Subsurface Investigation at Magnolia Plantation* (Keel 1999) reports the results of close interval (25-foot) auger testing over the entire park unit. Many although not all of the discoveries made during this project could be reconciled with an 1858 plat of the plantation. As a consequence of acquiring a comprehensive data set, we have been able to assist the park in planning and siting improvements that avoid the need for additional archeological research and data recovery and, at the same time, protect valuable historic resources.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Wood report a similar kind of project conducted at the Oakland Plantation unit during the summer of 1997. During May, June, and July, the team excavated and recorded a total of 1,660 one-foot-diameter auger tests distributed over the entire park. In addition, formal test pit excavations were conducted at all of the extant major structures at Oakland. This work determined the nature of archeological deposits associated with these buildings and enabled us to plan the data recovery that might be required as the structures are stabilized and repaired. The data derived from this work provides what we know about the distribution and condition of Oakland's archeological resources and serves as a base for developing interpretive programs and resource management schemes.

The Oakland work, like that at Magnolia, was conducted under a formal research design that was shared with Dr. Thomas Hales Eubanks, Louisiana State Archaeologist, whose office is situated in the State Historic Preservation Office. We are grateful for the support offered by Dr. Eubanks and his staff, who visited the project on several occasions. Their peer reviews of draft reports and the reviews of others have resulted in better final products.

Of the two remaining reports on the Cane River Creole National Historical Park archeological program, the first will cover formal excavations at and around several structures at both plantations, investigations at the cemetery at Oakland, and a survey of the cisterns at both plantations. The second and final report will provide an in-depth archeological study of slaves and tenants at Magnolia and Oakland plantations.

Bennie C. Keel
Regional Archeologist
Southeast Archeological Center

Acknowledgments

The success of this project and the attainment of its goals are due to the hard work, interest, support, and assistance of many people.

Dr. Bennie C. Keel, the project's principal investigator, deserves special thanks for the guidance he gave the crew and myself during the field, laboratory, and writing stages of this endeavor. His confidence in our abilities is greatly appreciated.

Drs. Hiram (Pete) Gregory, Kathleen Byrd, and Ann Patton Malone, from Northwestern State University, are due special thanks for their interest in the project and for sharing their knowledge of the area. Dr. Gregory's visits to the site meant a great deal to many of us on the crew who have had him as a professor. Dr. Malone graciously shared the historical information she gathered concerning Oakland Plantation. I would also like to express my appreciation to Dr. Robert W. Neuman, Professor Emeritus, Louisiana State University; Dr. Thomas H. Eubanks, Louisiana State Archaeologist; and Jeff Girard, Office of the Louisiana State Archeologist, for their on-site visits and support.

The crew, who labored in the unmerciful heat and humidity of Louisiana, are due recognition for their hard work. Those from the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) included Susan E. Wood, Thomas Hodgson, Jeff Jones, Marc Tiemann, Lynn Shreve, and Jennifer Azzarello. Students from Northwestern State University included John Rawls, Jay Gray, Jason Raupp, Alicia Trissler, Jay Fontenot, and Angelica Kraushaar. Mike Meyer and Thomas Hodgson were responsible for the survey stage of the project. They ran baselines and set temporary grid points across the plantation.

Several people were involved in the preparation of this report. The SEAC crew and staff conducted the laboratory work. Mike Meyer generated the preliminary survey maps. Barry Moore analyzed the faunal material. Susan E. Wood shot the artifact photographs in Chapter 4. Both Susan and I were responsible for the data entry.

The largest debt of gratitude is extended to the Prud'homme family. Without their support, assistance, and interest, and their trust in the National Park Service, this project would never have been undertaken. A special thanks goes to the entire family for their willingness to share their family's history with the public.

Christina E. Miller
Coauthor

Management Summary

The inclusion of Oakland Plantation into the Cane River Creole National Historical Park inherently embodied certain archeological responsibilities and obligations. In order to meet these obligations, a comprehensive subsurface auger-testing program was implemented by the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC). During May, June, and July 1997, Dr. Bennie C. Keel, Regional Archeologist for the National Park Service, directed the archeological survey of the 42-acre plantation complex.

Project objectives (see Chapter 1) and fieldwork specifications (see Chapter 4) were detailed in a research design to facilitate project management (Keel and Miller 1997). In conjunction with the auger-testing program, forty-six units were excavated around the complex, not including those excavated to ascertain the boundaries of a historic cemetery located along Bayou Brevelle's east bank. Only the auger-testing results are presented herein.

The auger-testing program has proved to be an efficient and comprehensive method for recovering archeological baseline data. The artifacts, their context, and the data derived from this project (see Chapters 5 and 6) provide a mass of information on which to base future archeological decisions and meet National Historic Preservation Act compliance requirements. In addition, this data enables the park to make more informed planning and cultural resource management decisions regarding structure stabilization, interpretation, and maintenance.

Chapter 1
Introduction

Natchitoches, located along the Cane River in northwest Louisiana, was established in 1714 as the oldest permanent European settlement in the Louisiana territory. The blend of French, Indian, African American, and Spanish cultures created a unique culture that is reflected in the architecture, landscape, customs, and beliefs of the people in Natchitoches and the outlying areas. Unlike other Creole sites in Louisiana, those along the Cane River have maintained their integrity. Original elements of the cultural landscape have survived in both rural and urban settings.

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

Congress recognized the significance of the area on November 2, 1994, by passing Public Law 103-449. Titles III and IV of the law established the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and National Heritage Area (Figure 1). The purposes of the law are to accomplish the following:

1. *recognize the importance of the Cane River Creole culture as a nationally significant element of the cultural heritage of the United States;*

2. *establish a Cane River Creole National Historical Park to serve as the focus of interpretive and educational programs on the history of the Cane River area and to assist in the preservation of certain historic sites along the river; and*

3. *establish a Cane River National Heritage Area and Commission to be undertaken in partnership with the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, local communities and settlements of the Cane River area, preservation organizations, and private landowners, with full recognition that programs must fully involve the local communities and landowners. (Title III, §302b)*

The law provided for the purchase of portions of Oakland (Figure 2) and Magnolia Plantations, along with additional sites that may contribute to the area's interpretation. The establishment of an interpretive visitor center complex, not to exceed ten acres, was also stipulated in the law (Title III, §303). It authorized the National Heritage Area to supplement the park and to "provide for a culturally sensitive approach to the preservation of the heritage of the Cane River region" (Title IV, §401).

The heritage area encompasses a one-mile strip of land along both sides of the Cane River; properties within the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District; the Los Adaes State Commemorative Area; the Fort Jesup State Commemorative Area; the Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Commemorative Area; and the Kate Chopin House. To assist in implementing Titles III and IV, the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission was established to instruct and supervise the management of the heritage area.

OBJECTIVES

The comprehensive subsurface testing program implemented at Magnolia Plantation (16NA295) in the summer of 1996 proved to be an excellent model for testing at Oakland Plantation. By correlating high-use areas with a 25-foot testing interval and low-use areas with a 50-foot testing interval, we effectively and efficiently identified where archeological resources were present or absent.

The objectives of the investigation were initially identified in the Oakland Plantation research

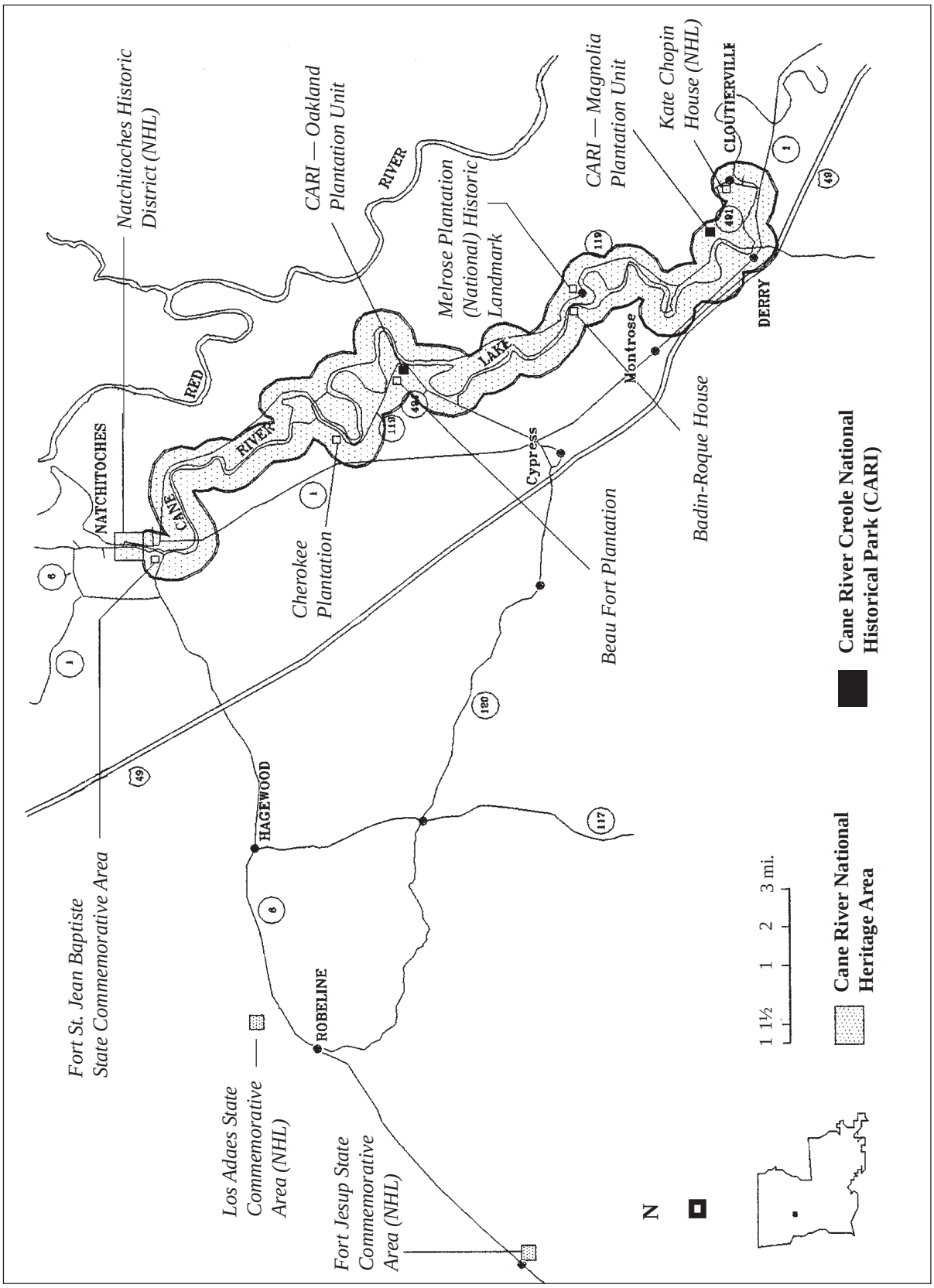


Figure 1 — Cane River Creole National Historical Park (CARI) and Cane River National Heritage Area.

design (Keel and Miller 1997:1). They were intended to accomplish the following:

- insure that no archeologically significant resources are adversely impacted by construction and development (e.g., immediately planned stabilization projects) at the plantation prior to the development of the General Management Plan (GMP);
- mitigate adverse impact on significant archeological resources that may be related to stabilization efforts associated with the historic structures;
- accumulate baseline data characterizing the location, distribution, age, integrity, and significance of archeological deposits throughout the Oakland Plantation unit;

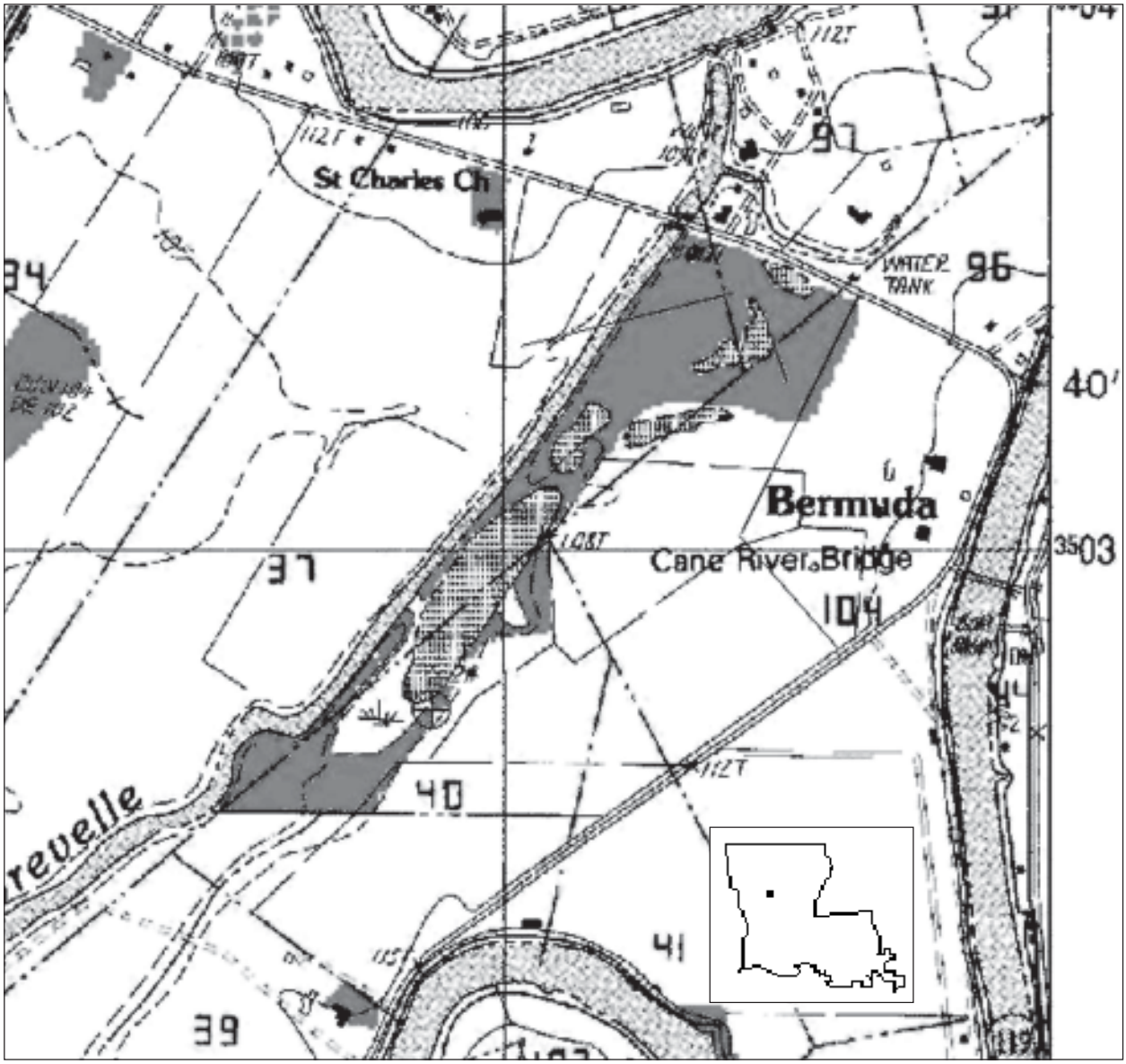


Figure 2 — Bermuda (Oakland Plantation) shown on a portion of revised 1992 USGS Natchitoches, South Louisiana, 7.5□series topographical quadrangle.

- excavate sample units in the immediate vicinity of the standing structures in order to determine the presence, if any, of archeological deposits in association; and

- determine the boundaries of a historic cemetery located along the east bank of Bayou Brevelle.

One final objective of the project was to acquire data to produce an Archeological Overview and Assessment for the Oakland Plantation Unit, Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area.

RESULTS

Dr. Bennie C. Keel, Regional Archeologist, Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), National Park Service, directed the investigations at Oakland during May, June, and July 1997. The crew consisted of archeological technicians from SEAC and several temporary hires from Northwestern State University. A total of 296 auger tests were excavated at 50-foot intervals, and 1,364 auger tests were excavated at 25-foot intervals. These tests, each approximately 1 foot in diameter, were drilled with a tractor-mounted auger to culturally sterile soil. Soils removed from the auger tests were sifted through ¼-inch mesh screen.

The crew recorded depths, mapped profiles, and bagged recovered artifacts according to provenience. The number of specimens recovered was 12,642, which does not include the brick, mortar, and slate that was weighed and discarded. Twenty-seven features were discovered during the testing program. These consisted of brick and mortar rubble, midden deposits, and in situ brick features. Forty-six units (covering a total surface area of 1,187 square feet) were excavated around all major structures. In addition, excavations were conducted to ascertain the boundaries of a historic cemetery located along the east bank of Bayou Brevelle. The data recovered and the information produced by the formal excavations and the cemetery excavations will be presented in a separate report.

Chapter 2
Natural and Historical Context

This chapter contains a summary of the natural environment and a brief history of Natchitoches Parish, Oakland Plantation, and the Prud'homme family. A more complete history will appear in the forthcoming historical overview of the plantation.

NATURAL CONTEXT

Cane River's natural environment was an important factor in the establishment and success of the plantation economy. The river's natural levees are favorable to crop and timber production, and the wetland areas support a wide range of flora and fauna. Mild temperatures and adequate rainfall contribute to a long growing season and high crop yield. In addition, the river system facilitated transportation of harvested crops, timber products, and other goods to and from commercial centers, such as New Orleans.

Soils deposited in the Holocene and late Pleistocene eras created the alluvial floodplains and low stream terraces. The soils present at Oakland Plantation are Roxana-Gallion, Moreland-Yorktown, and Moreland-Latanier-Armistead. The Roxana-Gallion soil unit is located high on the natural levee of the Cane River. This loamy, well-drained soil is suited for pasture and the cultivation of crops, such as corn, cotton, and soybeans. The potential for timber production is unlimited.

Moreland soil, found in low positions on the natural levees, is poorly drained and tends to support such crops as grain sorghum and soybeans. The clayey Yorktown soil is found in old channel scars and areas of depression, which are subject to frequent flooding. Consequently, while not suited to cultivation, these areas make good wildlife habitats. Typically, water hickory (*Carya aquatica*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), black willow (*Salix nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*) trees grow in these areas.

The Moreland-Latanier-Armistead soil unit is located in low to intermediate areas along natural levees. The soils range from clayey to loamy surface and subsurface layers. The level to gently undulating area is conducive to crop production and pasture and woodland use. American elm (*Ulmus americana L.*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), nuttall oak (*Quercus nuttallii*), pecan (*Carya illinoinensis*), and water oak (*Quercus nigra*) are the predominant trees (Martin et al. 1989:7–10).

Other trees growing in the area include cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), southern hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), willow (Salix spp.), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), hickory (*Carya* spp.), mulberry (*Morus* spp.), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and bois d'arc (Osage-orange) (*Maclura pomifera*). Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) are predominantly present in the uplands.

The uplands and lowlands of the parish support a wide range of wildlife. Fish such as gar (*Lepisosteus* spp.), catfish (*Ictalurus* spp.), drum (*Apolodinotus*), and carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are found in the rivers and streams meandering throughout the parish. Populations of turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), owl (*Otus asio, Bubo virginianus,* and *Strix varia*), hawk (*Buteo* spp.), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) exist within the region. Other examples of wildlife include rabbit (*Sylvilagus* spp.), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and skunk (*Mephitis*) (Hahn and Wells 1991:7–8).

The parish has a mild climate. Rainfall averages 50 inches per year, and snowfall is rare. Winter temperatures range between 39 and 51 degrees

Fahrenheit, while summer temperatures average between 82 and 94 degrees. Humidity ranges from 60 to 90 percent (Martin et al. 1989:2–3).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The colonization and settlement of Louisiana has been influenced and impacted by several distinct cultures that have manifested themselves in the landscape, architecture, and social and political structures. Beginning in 1682, Louisiana changed ownership four times over the following 121 years.

- French Louisiana (1682–1762)
- Spanish Louisiana (1762–1800)
- French Louisiana (1800–1803)
- United States Purchase (1803–Present)

René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, claimed Louisiana in the name of France in 1682. King Louis XIV engaged Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, and Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, to explore and settle the territory. They sailed to Louisiana on October 24, 1698, and reached the Gulf of Mexico on January 31, 1699 (Cummins and Jeansonne 1982:27). The expedition settled near Biloxi, Mississippi, but abandoned the site in 1702 and moved to Mobile (Waselkov 1997:8–9). Shortly thereafter, Bienville and Louis Juchereau de St. Denis made a trip along the Red River to scout possible settlement and fortification sites. They visited the area near present-day Natchitoches and made contact with the Caddo tribes. St. Denis returned to the area in 1714 to construct Fort St. Jean Baptiste and establish what would be the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana territory. By 1722, sixty-two people were residing in Natchitoches (Bolton 1914:37; Cummins and Jeansonne 1982:27).

In 1762, France ceded Louisiana to Spain in exchange for her support during the Seven Years War (Campbell et al. 1978:55). Spain needed the colony to block American incursions into New Spain. As a result, more emphasis and support was given to Louisiana during this period than during the earlier French period. The Spanish lieutenant governor of Natchitoches, Athanase de Mézières, repaired the fort and government buildings, primarily at his own expense. He made maps, wrote geographical reports of the area, and helped promote industry. In a 1776 letter to the governor general, Mézières lists 1,021 persons living within the jurisdiction (Bolton 1914:87, 120–121).

Twenty years later, Lieutenant Governor Carlos Luis Boucher de Grande Pré described the conditions at Natchitoches as somewhat bleak.

> *The population of this oldest settlement of the province, which has almost the same beginning as that of the capital [New Orleans], is reduced today to 780 whites of both sexes and all ages. Two hundred and twenty-two are fit to bear arms. There are 1,021 individuals of color, counting both slaves and free. The products consist of some indigo, but the main production is in tobacco. Lack of industry among the growers during the last ten or more years has drastically reduced the cultivation of indigo, although the present crop is considerable. All the tobacco, without exception, is of superior quality because the inhabitants have taken greater care than formerly in its cultivation. The interior commerce of the post in agricultural products as well as that of the hunt may be estimated conservatively for the average year at 50,000 to 55,000 pesos; expenses and consumption of food at 115,000 pesos. (Kinnaird 1967:189–190)*

The Prud'homme Family

In 1725, Jean Pierre Philippe Prud'homme married Catherine Meslier Picard, a "casket girl." (Mayo Prud'homme, personal communication 1998). Casket girls were reputable young women who were given free transportation to Louisiana along with a casket or trunk of household goods. The couple settled in Natchitoches on land granted to them by the King of France, where their two sons Jean Baptiste and François were born. Jean Baptiste traveled to France to study medicine, but returned to Natchitoches to open a hospital. He eventually established himself as a wealthy and successful planter. Jean Baptiste married twice. His

first wife Marie Françoise Chever died soon after their marriage. In 1758, he married Marie Françoise Joseph Henriette Charlotte Callotin (Thomas 1997:17–18).

Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme

Jean Pierre and Marie Françoise's son Jean Pierre Emmanuel (1762–1845) was born the year France ceded Louisiana to Spain. In fact, during his lifetime, Emmanuel witnessed both the second French occupation and the United States purchase of the Louisiana territory (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978).

Emmanuel followed in his father's steps and established himself as a planter, but on a much larger scale. In 1789, Governor Estavan Miro granted him a land tract 13 miles south of Natchitoches. This grant is important in that it eventually became part of what was later called Oakland Plantation (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978).

In 1800, France again acquired Louisiana, only to sell it shortly thereafter to the United States. The transition in ownership created problems for many Louisiana inhabitants. The United States required those who had received large land grants from the French or Spanish governments to prove their claims. Many could not and lost their property as a result. Fortunately, Emmanuel had the necessary documentation and kept his land (Thomas 1997:29).

The United States acquisition coincided with the emergence of cotton cultivation in Louisiana. Emmanuel Prud'homme was supposedly the first to plant cotton in the state. His primary crops had previously been indigo and tobacco. Because cotton agriculture required substantial labor, Louisiana citizens believed the American ban on slave importation could possibly lead to economic ruin. The ban, however, was not effectively enforced, and smuggling was widespread (Cummins and Jeansonne 1982:93).

In fact, the ban seemed not to have affected the Prud'hommes. Baptismal records indicated that they continued to import labor (Thomas 1997:30), as did many other Louisiana planters. An 1810 census listed Emmanuel Prud'homme as head of a household consisting of his wife, three children under ten years of age, and fifty-three slaves. By 1820, Emmanuel owned seventy-four slaves; by 1830, the number had increased to ninety-six; and, by 1840, the count had grown to 104 (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978).

Just as the number of his slaves increased over the years, so too did Prud'homme's landholdings. According to an 1816 surveyor's plat, Emmanuel owned Sections 104 and 44 of Township 8 North, Range 6 West, which incorporated 241.79 acres (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978). An 1829 survey map (Figure 3) indicated that Prud'homme had also acquired Section 40. Together, Sections 40, 44, and 104 totaled 796.14 acres. The Red River (later called Cane River) divided Sections 44 and 104, where the main house is located.

Phanor Prud'homme I

Phanor Prud'homme I (1807–1865), the third son of Emmanuel, took over plantation management around 1835. He is listed in the 1840 census as the owner of forty slaves in his own right. In 1842, Phanor was commissioned as a captain in the state militia. He also served two terms in the state legislature. He married Suzanne Lise Metoyer, who was born nearby on the Metoyer Plantation. The couple had five children: Catharine Adaline, Jacques Alphonse, Marie Emma, Thérèse Henrietta, and Pierre Emmanuel. Suzanne Lise died in 1852. Three years after her death, Phanor married Marianne Cephalid Archinard née Metoyer, the sister of his first wife (Southern Publishing 1890:365–366).

Phanor Prud'homme kept detailed accounts of daily life on the plantation. He wrote about such tasks as repairing chimneys and redoing wells. Phanor's notebooks also provide information concerning the agricultural and husbandry activities practiced on the plantation. Cotton and corn were almost of equal importance at Oakland. Corn provided a second cash crop, as well as food for people and livestock. Other crops cultivated on the plantation were broad beans, potatoes, sweet potatoes, guinea grass, and hay. Feed for livestock was an important crop since the Prud'hommes raised a large number of sheep, mules, horses, hogs, and beef and dairy cattle (Thomas 1997:34–36).

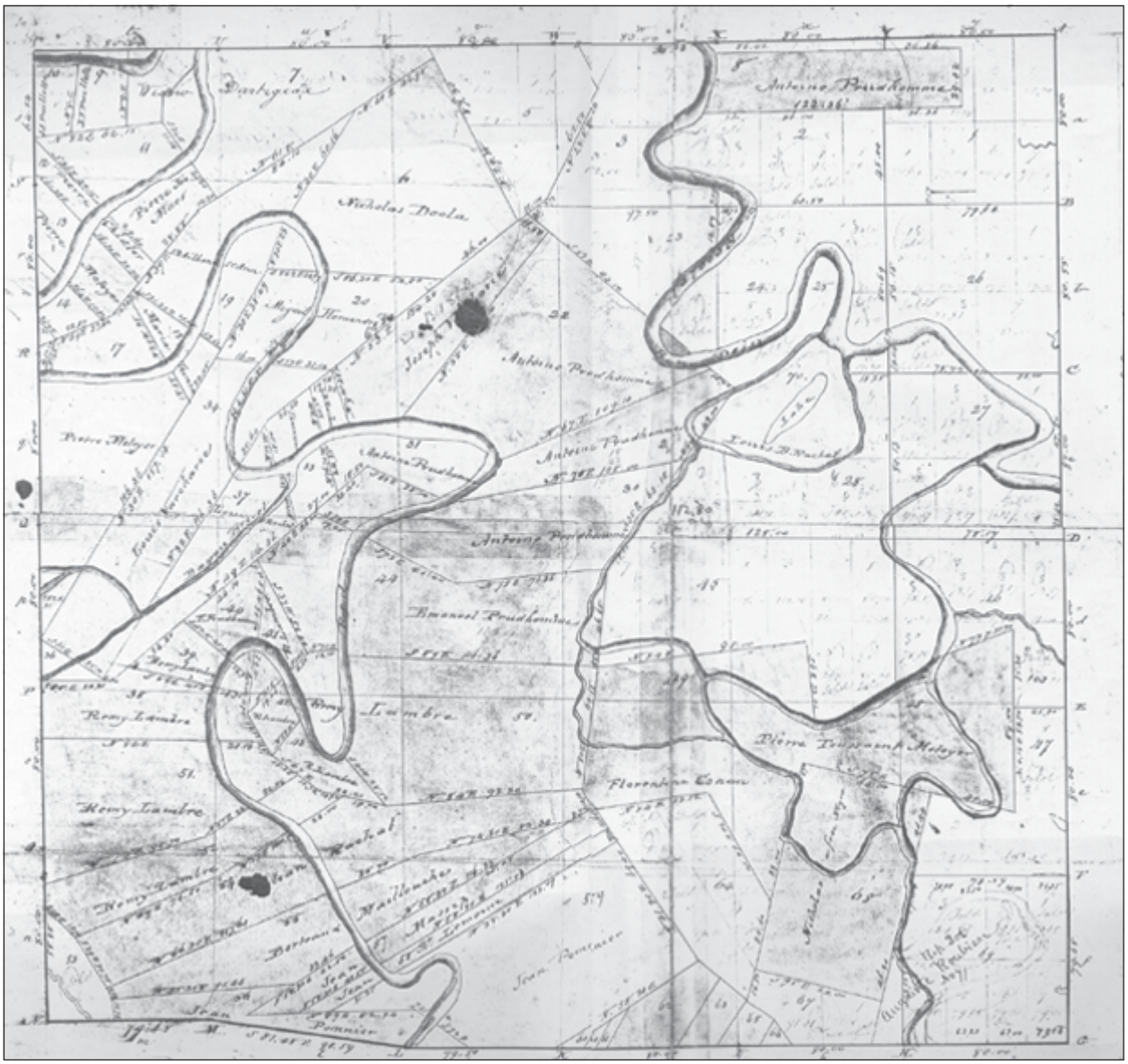


Figure 3 — District north of Red River, Louisiana Township 8 North, Range 6 West. Surveyor of the Public, September 17, 1829 (on file, Louisiana State Land Office, Baton Rouge).

Natchitoches' position along the Red River made it a major port, which provided a large source of income for its inhabitants. The course of the river began to shift in 1832: by 1835, its course had completely changed. Natchitoches, left with only a small waterway, lost much of its river trade. The resulting economic depression filtered to the planters along Cane River. Many of the plantations were financed on extended credit, a system that quickly collapsed. In the following years, bad harvests added to the planters' problems (Campbell et al. 1978:61). In July 1840, Phanor noted that there had been "Storms, storms, for several days, Cotton is much dead." In September, he wrote that the slaves "gather[ed] the corn on the side of the house. There has been quite a dry spell. Not a thousand [pounds?] of cotton. The caterpillars have eaten everything" (in Thomas 1997:35). By 1850,

however, the plantation economy had regained its strength (Campbell et al. 1978:61).

Upon the death of his father in 1845, Phanor gained complete control over the plantation. By 1850, he was worth $170,000: he owned 124 slaves and 1,800 acres, of which 800 were improved. In 1849, the plantation produced 250 bales of cotton (400-pound bales) and 4,500 bushels of corn. The plantation's holdings and production increased dramatically over the next ten years. The plantation yielded 698 bales of cotton and 7,000 bushels of corn in 1859. An 1860 census listed Phanor as owning 3,400 acres, of which 1,000 were improved, and 145 slaves living in thirty slave dwellings (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978).

Oakland's overseer during this time was Seneca Pace. Although no records were found to indicate the exact time period that he worked on the plantation, one record book kept by Pace, dating to 1857, still exists. It was during Pace's management, in 1861, that the overseer's house was built. In *The Overseer* (1966), William Kauffman Scarborough stated that by the time of the Civil War, Seneca Pace was a "veteran manager of Phanor Prud'homme's 'Bermuda' plantation." Southern overseers did not see an appreciable rise in salary during the nineteenth century. From 1838 to 1863, Prud'homme paid his overseer $800 per year (Scarborough 1966:28).

In 1865, when Phanor died, his estate inventory was valued at $13,101.15. This was $2,252.85 less than the previous year.

Jacques Alphonse and Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme

On his death, Phanor's estate passed to his sons Jacques Alphonse and Pierre Emmanuel. Jacques Alphonse was educated at the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina, where he graduated. In 1860, he returned to Louisiana to work as a civil engineer for the Mississippi and Pacific Railroad. When Louisiana seceded from the Union on January 26, 1861, Jacques Alphonse resigned his position to join Company H, Third Regiment of the Louisiana Infantry. On March 7, 1862, he was wounded and captured by the Union army. Several days later he escaped and returned home. On September 21, 1862, he was made adjutant in the Second Louisiana Regiment of Cavalry. Jacques Alphonse participated in several battles, among them the Battle of Mansfield, before being relieved from duty in July 1864. For the remainder of the war, he served as the enrolling officer for Natchitoches Parish (Southern Publishing 1890:366).

Pierre Emmanuel was studying at Georgetown College when the war began. He returned to Natchitoches Parish and joined the Prud'homme Guards of the Twenty-sixth Louisiana Regiment as a corporal (Southern Publishing 1890:367). A year later, Seneca Pace, Oakland Plantation's overseer, also joined the Prud'homme Guards (Scarborough 1966:144). Pierre Emmanuel was taken prisoner at the surrender of Vicksburg but was subsequently paroled. He rejoined his regiment and was promoted to orderly sergeant (Southern Publishing 1890:366–367).

Following the war, both brothers returned home to run the family plantation. In 1867, they decided to divide the property. Jacques Alphonse retained Section 104, where the plantation house was located, and Pierre Emmanuel received Section 44. Pierre Emmanuel's plantation, east of the river, eventually became known as Atahoe. Jacques Alphonse subsequently named his portion Oakland. Jacques Alphonse married Elizabeth Lise LeComte of Magnolia Plantation on September 6, 1864 (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978). Pierre Emmanuel married Marie Julie Buard on January 25, 1866 (Southern Publishing 1890:367).

Prud'homme Descendants

After the death of Jacques Alphonse in 1919, his son Phanor Prud'homme II (1865–1948) took over Oakland's operation. Phanor II married Marie Laure Cloutier. In 1942, their oldest son, James Alphonse Prud'homme II (born in 1896), bought the plantation from his father. James Alphonse married Rosalie Lucile Keator of St. Louis. The couple had four children: James Alphonse III, Kenneth A., Mayo K., and Rose Vivian (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978).

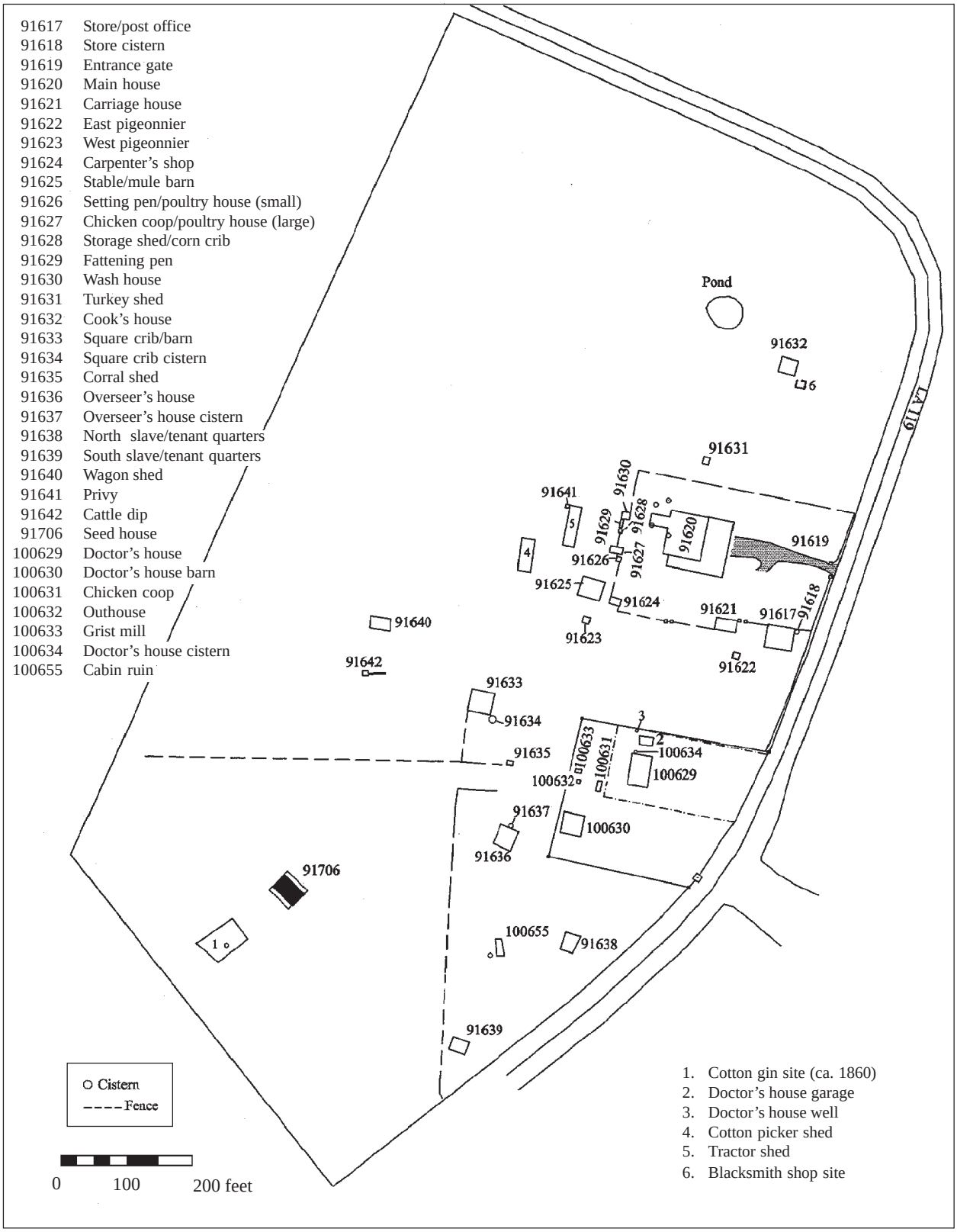


Figure 4 — Base map identifying structures by LCS numbers.

Chapter 3
Site Description

On many plantations today, only the main house remains; dependencies, no longer useful, have disappeared. Oakland Plantation is significant in that so many of its dependencies are still intact.

The Oakland main house is one of the best examples of a French colonial raised cottage. It is the second largest house of its type in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Of the twenty-seven ancillary structures on the plantation, over half date to the antebellum period. Unless otherwise noted, the following descriptions of the structures are adapted from the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic American Buildings Survey drawings and notations, Prud'homme family personal communications, and field observations. The base map in Figure 4 (opposite) identifies the structures by their LCS (List of Classified Structures) numbers.

REGISTERED STRUCTURES

Store/Post Office* (*LCS No. 91617)

There is no exact construction date for the plantation store (Figure 5), but it was probably built be-

Figure 5 — An 1878 tintype of the plantation store, view from east.

tween 1868 and 1874. Sharecropping began at Oakland in 1868, and the first reference to the store is recorded in an 1874 ledger. Several additions, dating to circa 1880, 1885, 1890, and 1900, were made to the structure (Yocum 1998:27). The gable-fronted store is of cypress frame construction and was originally roofed with cypress shingles, which have since been replaced with corrugated and sheet metal. Original hardware and architectural details remain, along with remnants of the merchandise. The store/post office operated until 1968.

Store Cistern* (*LCS No. 91618)

The above-ground portion of the store cistern was constructed of concrete, with a metal overflow grate and a metal pump. Several of the plantation cisterns have been pumped, recorded in detail, and the artifacts they contained recovered (Keel and Raupp 1998). The store cistern, however, was not among those investigated.

Entrance Gate* (*LCS No. 91619)

A cast- and wrought-iron gate stands at the entrance to the oak-lined alley leading to the main house. Square brick piers support the Corinthian capitals and the two 10.4-foot-high, hollow, fluted, cast-iron columns. Affixed to the columns is a semicircular cast- and wrought-iron sign that reads "Oakland 1821."

Main House* (*LCS No. 91620)

Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme constructed Oakland's main house (Figures 6 and 7) between 1818 and 1821. As the land grant was acquired in 1789, this structure may not be the first main house on the plantation. Nevertheless, the house is an excellent example of French colonial raised architecture and the second largest of its type in the parish. The original configuration of the main house was either four or five rooms surrounded by galleries on the first floor and at least two rooms on the ground floor. The ground floor was constructed of brick, and the first floor of bousillage and cypress. Additions and remodeling occurred in the 1820s, 1870s, 1880s, from 1925 to 1927, in 1953, and between the 1940s and 1960s.

Figure 6 — Main house, view from east.

Figure 7 — Main house kitchen ell, view from southwest.

Carriage House* (*LCS No. 91621)
The carriage house is a frame structure built of heavy cypress timbers. Originally it had three bays, each of which was enclosed by heavy vertical board doors. The gabled roof, once covered with cypress shingles, is now surfaced with sheet metal. The building's function changed twice during the twentieth century: first the two side bays were converted into garages, then the rear wall was removed to turn the building into a farm shop (Kenneth Prud'homme, personal communication 1998).

East Pigeonnier and West Pigeonnier (LCS Nos. 91622 and 91623 [HS-0-7])
The east (Figure 8) and west pigeonniers are located south of the main house. The frame structures are filled with bousillage and covered by weatherboards. Both are two stories high and protected by a low pyramidal cypress shingled roof. Their first floors contain shelves and benches for storage and repair work. Their second floors are egg collection and roosting areas. Construction dates could be as early as 1821 or as late as the 1850s. The west pigeonnier was moved approximately 20 feet south of its original location between 1953 and 1955 (Kenneth Prud'homme, personal communication 1998).

Carpenter's Shop* (*LCS No. 91624)
The carpenter's shop (Figure 9), built around 1850, was made of cypress logs with half-dovetail notching and mud chinking. Batten shutters covered the windows, and the single-leaf door was built of diagonal boards and battens. Notches in the sill indicate that the structure once featured a side gallery, but a front porch with a five-foot shed roof has since replaced the gallery. Evidence indicates that the building may once have been plastered with red clay. Measuring 13 by 20 by 16.2 feet, the structure rests on stone piers.

Figure 8 — East pigeonnier, view from east.

Stable/Mule Barn (LCS No. 91625)
This structure dates to between 1820 and 1830 (Figure 10). The building was once the smokehouse but was converted into a barn after the original stable burned around 1927. Some of the wall surfaces consist of horizontally placed flush boards; others have posts that are notched to receive horizontal slats. A gable roof covers the two-story structure that measures 36 by 40 by 10 feet to the eaves.

Setting Pen/Poultry House (Small) (LCS No. 91626)
The chicken setting pen was built between 1820 and 1920 but has been altered in the twentieth century. This wood-framed construction measures 8.5 by 7.8 by 11.5 feet high. Weatherboard and lattice cover the frame. The structure rests on brick and concrete block piers. It has a front gable, and the original wooden shingles have been replaced with metal. The original chicken roosts are still intact.

Chicken Coop/Poultry House (Large) (LCS No. 91627)
This structure, which measures 12.2 by 22 by 15.8 feet, was also built sometime between 1820 and 1920. It is similar in construction to the small poultry house just described, but rests on brick and wooden piers. Also, a rear shed has been added.

Storage Shed/Corn Crib (LCS No. 91628)
The wooden-frame storage shed, constructed between 1820 and 1920, is located north of the chicken coop. It measures 16.2 by 16.8 by 9.5 feet and rests on brick piers.

Fattening Pen (LCS No. 91629)
The poultry fattening pen was constructed between 1820 and 1920. Measuring 4 by 15.2 by 7.5 feet, it lies adjacent to the storage shed. The structure's brick piers support its wooden frame and the three lattice-covered pens inside.

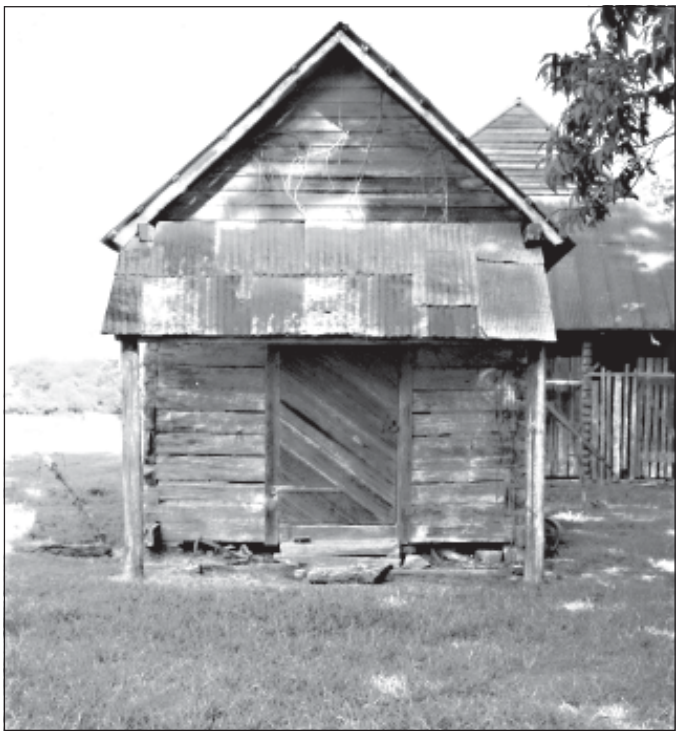


Figure 9 — Carpenter's shop, view from east.

Figure 10 — Stable/mule barn, view from north.

Wash House* (*LCS No. 91630)
The wash house was built between 1820 and 1900. This wood-framed construction measures 13.5 by 13 by 11 feet.

Turkey Shed (LCS No. 91631)
This shed is located north of the main house and southwest of the cook's house (described next). It was constructed between 1820 and 1920. The construction measures 12.5 by 11.33 by 10.8 feet and has wooden sills that rest directly on the ground.

Cook's House (LCS No. 91632)
The cook's house (cottage) was built sometime between 1820 and 1870. Originally located behind the main house, it was moved in the twentieth century and used as a fishing cabin (Figure 11). A shed-roof gallery surrounds this cypress and bousillage house on three sides. Weatherboards cover one side; the other three sides are exposed. Parts of the exposed walls are covered with deteriorating whitewash; the remaining portions are simply bousillage and wood.

This cabin represents an excellent example of bousillage construction. The boards were placed diagonally from the top corner to the bottom corner of the upright posts. Barreaux, or wooden bars, have been notched into place in the diagonal boards and the upright posts, thus forming a lattice for the bousillage (Figure 12). The cook's house needs immediate stabilization, preservation, and repair.

Square Crib/Barn (LCS No. 91633)
This structure was built between 1820 and 1830 (Figure 13). The tall center corncrib is surrounded on all sides by shed-roof additions. Brick and wooden piers support the crib, while the support posts for the shed rest directly on the ground. The crib itself was built of hand-hewn cypress logs, which were "V" notched at the corners. Roman numerals from I to VII are carved on the first seven logs (Figure 14). According to the structural assessment report, two different types of logs were used to build the crib. This suggests that the crib may originally have been shorter and was added to after initial construction (Miri 1998a, section 4:1).

Figure 11 — Cook's house, view from northeast.

Square Crib Cistern* (*LCS No. 91634)
The square crib cistern was constructed of brick and mortar and is the second largest cistern on the plantation. It has a depth of 16 feet, with a capacity to hold 4,804 gallons of water. The top portion extends 6 feet above the ground (Keel and Raupp 1998:10–11).

Corral* (*LCS No. 91635)
The following were grouped under the classification of corral: a 48-by-50-foot fenced area, a 45-foot-long livestock chute, and a shed, which has a wooden frame covered by cypress boards. The corral was constructed between 1820 and 1920.

Overseer's House (LCS No. 91636)
This one-story house (Figure 15) was built in 1861 for the overseer Seneca Pace, who directed its construction. Built in the Creole architectural style, the structure is supported by brick piers. The original walls were made of cypress and bousillage. The exterior walls of whitewashed bousillage were covered with weatherboard and rolled asphalt at a later date. The original gallery extended along the east, north, and west sides of the house, but the north and west sides were later enclosed. Material analysis suggests that the two corner rooms or "cabinets" on either side of the west porch were part of the original construction.

Overseer's House Cistern (LCS No. 91637)
The cistern at the overseer's house has a diameter of 8 feet, a depth of 9.7 feet, and a holding capacity of 1,764 gallons (Keel and Raupp 1998:11).

North Slave/Tenant Quarters (LCS No. 91638)
The north slave/tenant cabin was built circa 1860. Originally this one-room, dirt-floor structure with front and rear porches measured 31.7 by 24.4 by 18.2 feet. The rear porch has since been enclosed, and wooden floors added. According to the structural assessment, "the wall structure consists of

Figure 12 — Detail of cook's house construction.

Figure 14 — Close-up of square crib construction.

Figure 13 — Square crib, view from southeast.

Figure 15 — Overseer's house, view from southwest.

the two horizontal beams (one in the lower part and one in the upper part of the wall) with a vertical membrane extending from the corner of the upper beam to the corner of the lower beam. The wood lath is located between the vertical membrane with bousillage filling in between" (Miri 1998b, section 5:1). Weatherboard and asphalt now cover the walls.

South Slave/Tenant Quarters (LCS No. 91639)
The south slave/tenant cabin (Figure 16) was constructed in the 1850s or early 1860s. It measures 24.8 by 31.5 by 18.6 feet. Like the north cabin, it has been modified from its one-room configuration by enclosing the back porch to create two rooms. Bousillage and wood lath was found in only two of the walls, suggesting that the other walls have been altered. As with the first tenant house, just described, weatherboard and asphalt cover the walls.

Wagon Shed (LCS No. 91640)
This wood-framed, 1½-story shed with front gable roof is located northwest of the square crib. It was built between 1820 and 1920.

Privy* (*LCS No. 91641)
The privy is located just northwest of the tractor shed (description to follow). According to the List of Classified Structures (LCS), the privy was constructed between 1820 and 1920. The wood-framed structure has one door and three seats.

Cattle Dip/Dipping Shed (LCS No. 91642)
Built between 1900 and 1940, the cattle dip is constructed of poured concrete. A collapsed wooden shed is associated with the trough.

Seed House (LCS No. 91706)
The seed house is located northeast of where a cotton gin once stood. According to the List of

Classified Structures, the seed house was built between 1870 and 1940, but references are made to a seed house in an 1861 plantation journal. It is unclear whether the references are to the existing seed house or another house. The one-story building measures 50 by 50 feet. Weatherboards cover the wooden frame, and the roof is surfaced with corrugated metal. Shed roof lean-tos have been added to the east and west sides.

Doctor's House (LCS No. 100629)

The wood-framed and bousillage structure known as the doctor's house was built in the 1820s. In 1871, Dr. Joseph Leveque received permission from the Prud'homme family to renovate and add on to the existing house. Upon his departure from the property, the structure with all its improvements reverted to the Prud'hommes. Originally, the house consisted of one or two rooms surrounded by a gallery. The gallery was gradually enclosed to create more rooms, and other additions were made. The original bousillage walls and roof truss are visible. Cypress shingles have been replaced by asphalt.

Doctor's House Dependencies (LCS Nos. 100630–100633)

The barn (LCS No. 100630), located on the southwest side of the doctor's house, was built circa 1870. The wood frame, which was cut with a circular saw, is covered with vertical siding. Four other structures are associated with the doctor's house, three of which have also been assigned LCS numbers. They are a garage (no number), a chicken coop (No. 100631), an outhouse (No. 100632), and a gristmill (No. 100633). Little is known about these buildings at present. The chicken coop, outhouse, and gristmill are located on the west side of the doctor's house; the garage is found on the north side.

Figure 16 — South slave/tenant quarters, view from east.

MISCELLANEOUS STRUCTURES

Some of the extant structures at Oakland have not been assigned historic structure or LCS numbers.

Cotton Picker Shed

The cotton picker shed (see Figure 4, no. 4) is located west of the main house and southwest of the tractor shed. It was built in the 1950s.

Tractor Shed

The tractor shed (see Figure 4, no. 5), which is located west of the main house, was also constructed in the 1950s.

Chapter 4
Fieldwork

METHODOLOGY

Historic Maps

As a first step in the investigations, we procured historic maps of Oakland. Unfortunately there are few, and these are limited in scope. At present, we have maps constructed from aerial photographs taken in 1947 (Figure 17), 1958 (Figure 18), 1966 (Figure 19), and 1980, but some of the structures on the plantation are obscured. We do not have the actual aerial photographs. From the Louisiana State Land Office, we obtained survey maps of the Cane River area for 1829 (see Figure 3) and 1850. Unfortunately, these do not provide structure locations, only property boundaries. Knowlin and Associates, under contract with the National Park Service, conducted a survey of the plantation during the summer and fall of 1997. Their survey map, combined with the map created by SEAC technicians, served as the base map for our investigations (see Figure 4).

Fieldwork

On May 12, 1996, part of the crew arrived at Oakland; the rest arrived a week later. On the first day of fieldwork, the advance party established a baseline grid using a Sokia Total Station transit. The team placed ½-inch-diameter steel rods at intervals along the baseline and at subsequent points around the site. Beginning at 1000N 1000E, we placed points at 1300N 1000E, 1600N 1000E, and 1710N 1000E. Because the landscape prevented a straight baseline, the next point was placed at 1710N 1050E. We then continued north with points at 2060N 1050E, 2360N 1050E, 2660N 1050E, and 2960N 1050E (Figure 20). Additional points were placed around the plantation to facilitate pin flagging.

Because we were investigating a historic site, we decided it would be more efficient to be consistent with the measurement system used historically on the plantation. Thus, even though the standard archeological practice is to use the metric system, we chose to use the English system of measurement to record dimensions.

The plantation complex was examined prior to the commencement of the field season to determine the testing intervals. High-use areas were pin flagged at 25-foot intervals around such areas as the slave/tenant cabins, the overseer's house, the barns, and the area adjacent to the main house. Low-use areas, such as those historically used as pasture, were pin flagged at 50-foot intervals (Figure 21). The majority of the auger tests conducted in the eastern section of the plantation were positive, while the preponderance of those tested at 50-foot intervals were negative.

Auger testing is more likely to reveal horizontally extensive features than vertical features. However, the objectives of our study made auger testing a reliable and efficient method for surveying the 42-acre plantation complex. The testing intervals employed enabled us to identify areas of artifact and artifact group concentrations (see Chapter 6).

Once the grid was established (Figure 22), a portion of the crew began pin flagging in the cornfield. After a section was pin flagged and marked with grid coordinates, crew members began auger testing. The pin flagging crew continued to work ahead of the auger testing crew. The tractor-mounted auger was placed over the flagged point, and a 1-foot diameter hole was drilled until sterile soil, subsoil, or in situ structural features were encountered. A two-person team sifted the dirt through a ¼-inch screen and bagged recovered artifacts according to provenience. Using forms specifically designed for auger testing, the crew recorded all necessary and pertinent information, including a profile drawing of each auger hole.

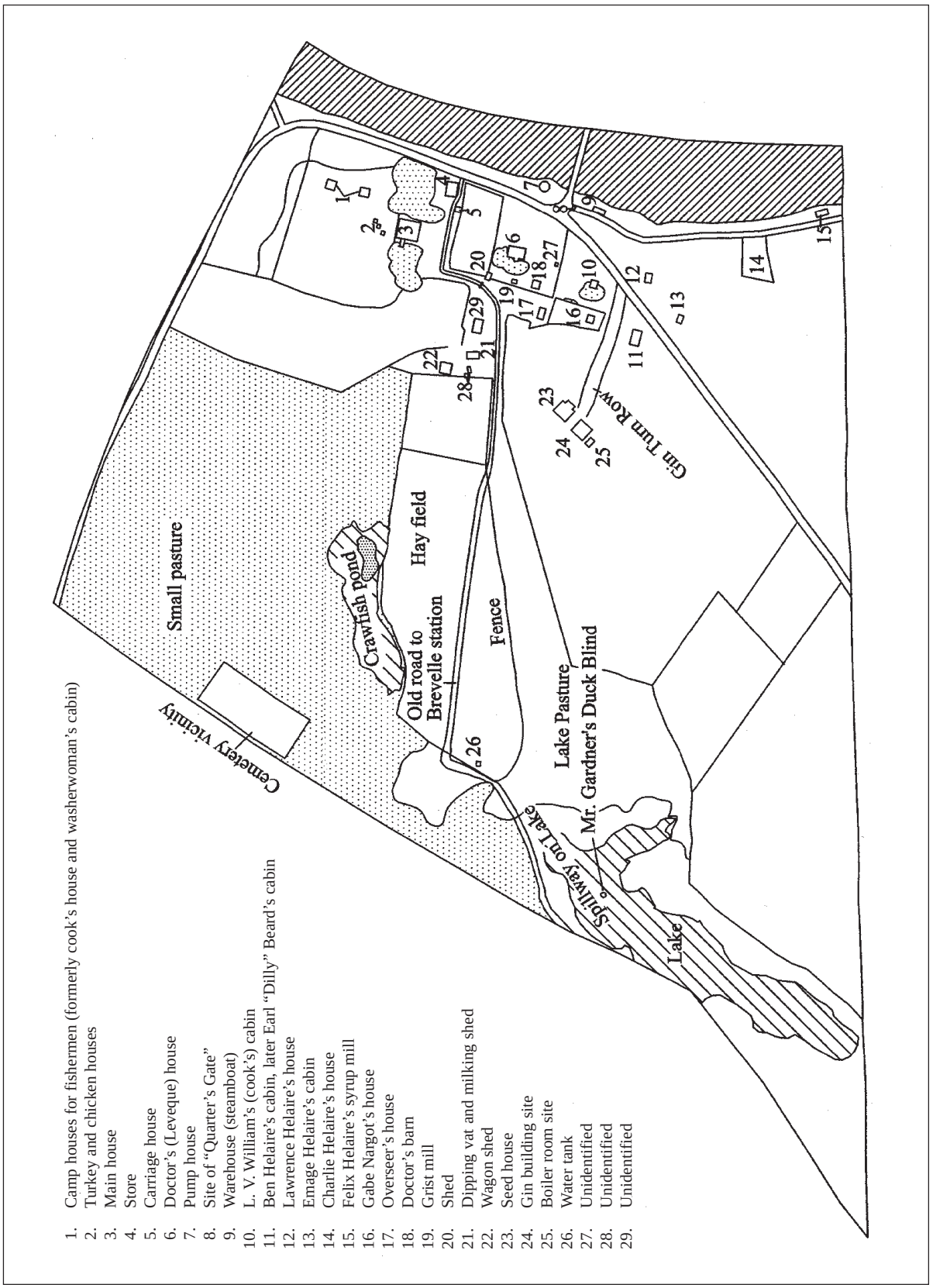
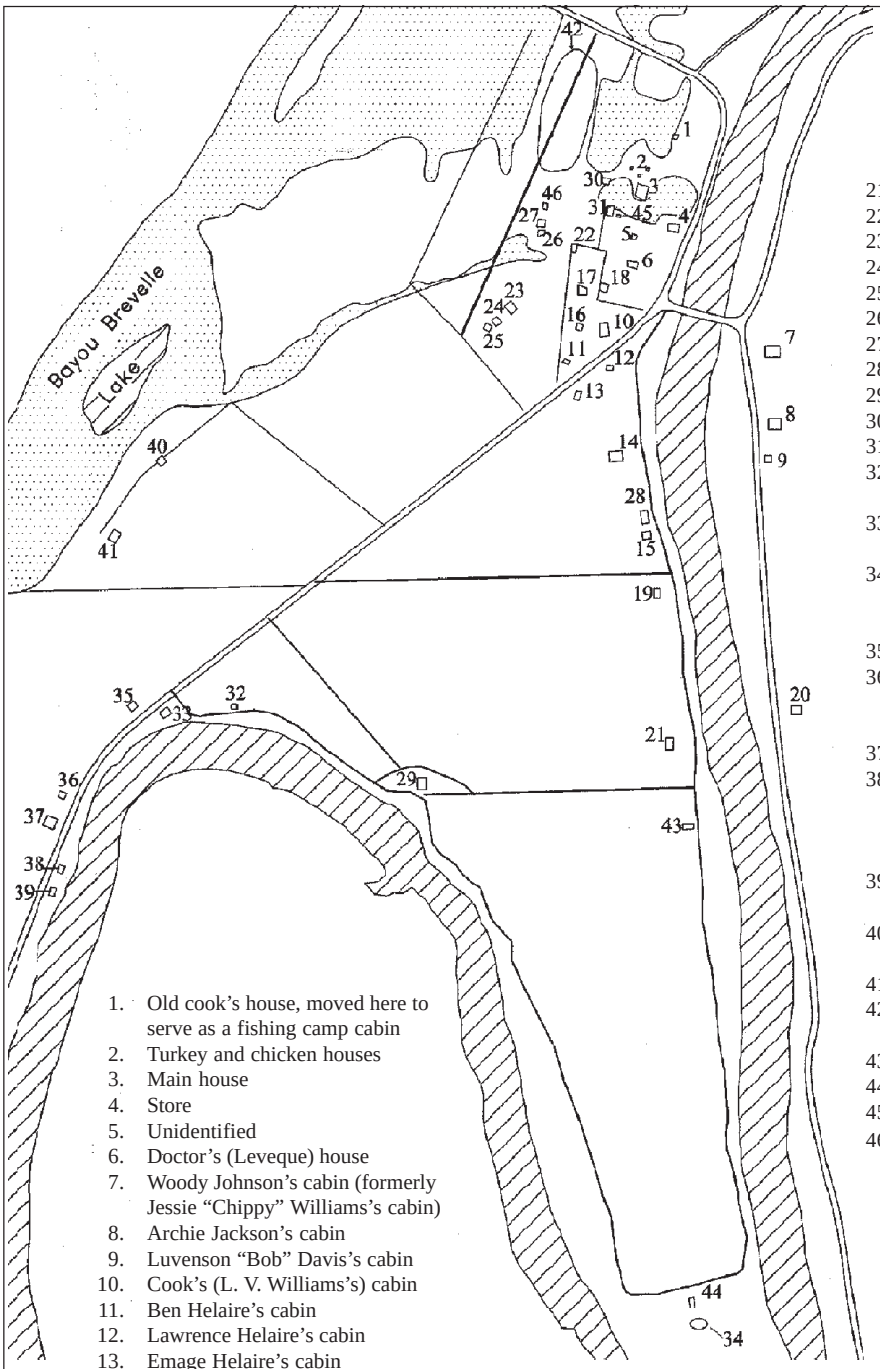
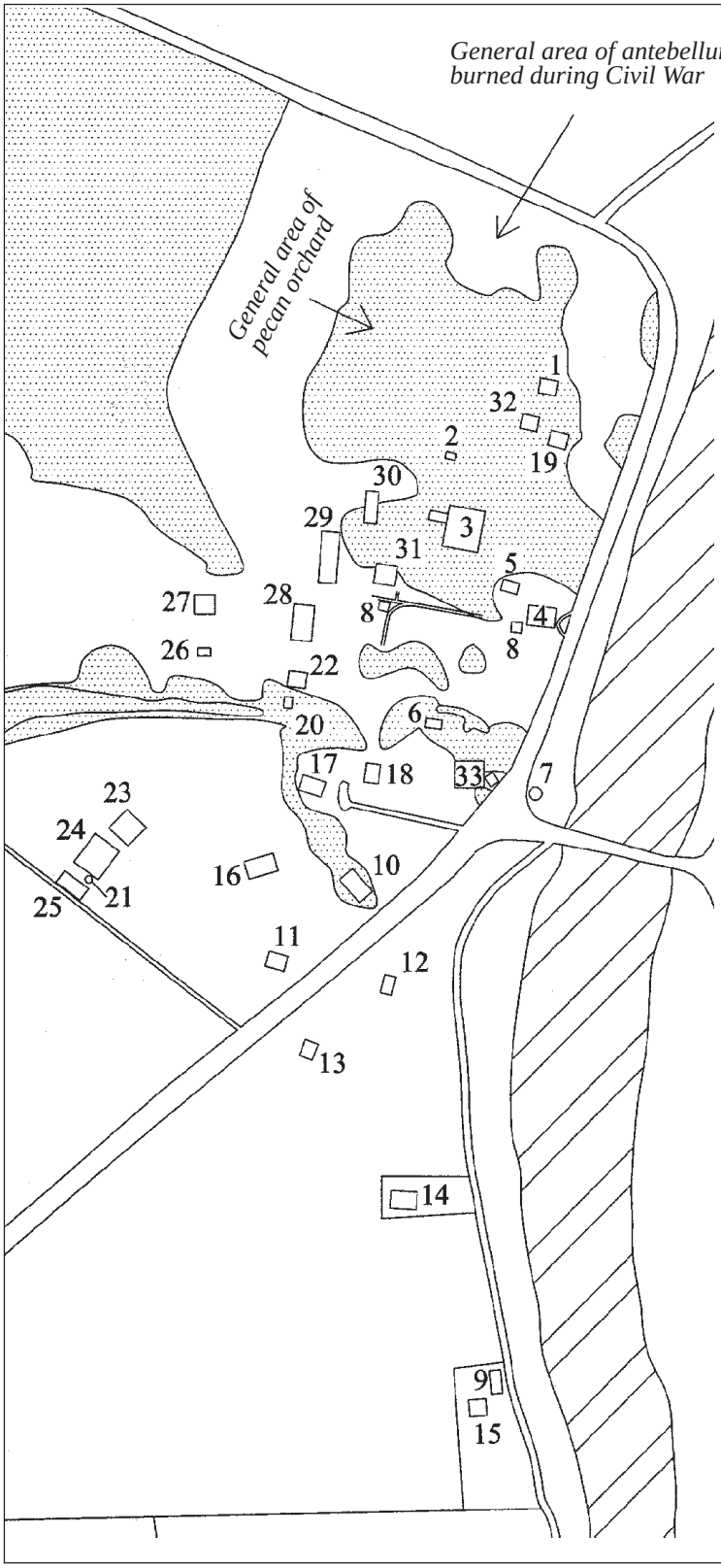


Figure 17 — Map of Oakland Plantation rendered from a 1947 aerial photograph.



1. Old cook's house, moved here to serve as a fishing camp cabin
2. Turkey and chicken houses
3. Main house
4. Store
5. Unidentified
6. Doctor's (Leveque) house
7. Woody Johnson's cabin (formerly Jessie "Chippy" Williams's cabin)
8. Archie Jackson's cabin
9. Luvenson "Bob" Davis's cabin
10. Cook's (L. V. Williams's) cabin
11. Ben Helaire's cabin
12. Lawrence Helaire's cabin
13. Emage Helaire's cabin
14. Charlie Helaire's cabin
15. Felix Helaire's cabin
16. Gabe Nargot's cabin
17. Overseer's house
18. Doctor's (Leveque) barn
19. Little Frank Helaire's cabin
20. Hattie McDaniel's cabin
21. Old Frank Helaire's cabin
22. Square crib
23. Seed house
24. Gin building site
25. Boiler room site
26. Dipping vat and milking shed
27. Wagon shed
28. Felix Helaire's syrup mill
29. Atlas and Lucinda Helaire's cabin
30. Tractor shed
31. Mule barn
32. Mary Helaire Johnson and Leonard Johnson's cabin
33. Ike Beasley's, then Joseph Beasley's, then Charles Helaire's cabin
34. Site of Madam Ben Metoyer's Big House; trees remain but house is gone
35. Clifford Page's cabin
36. At different times, cabin of Pocus and Egan and Elizabeth "Miss Liz" Metoyer, gone by 1958
37. Reginald Prud'homme's house
38. At different times, cabin of James Helaire, George Helaire, and Caroline, and then Lee Edgar Connely
39. Little Frank Helaire lived here for awhile
40. At different times, cabin of Ezekial Batise, and F. J. and Lafille Batise
41. Old George Helaire's cabin
42. Racetrack for the movie "Horse Soldiers"
43. Unidentified
44. Unidentified
45. Unidentified
46. Unidentified

Figure 18 — Map of Oakland Plantation rendered from a 1958 aerial photograph.



1. Cook's house, moved from behind the main house to serve as a fishing camp cottage
2. Turkey and chicken houses
3. Main house
4. Store
5. Carriage house
6. Doctor's (Leveque) house
7. Pump house
8. Pigeonniers
9. Syrup mill site
10. L. V. William's cabin
11. Ben Helaire's cabin
12. Lawrence Helaire's cabin
13. Emage Helaire's cabin
14. Charlie Helaire's cabin
15. Felix Helaire's cabin
16. Gabe Nargot's cabin
17. Overseer's house
18. Doctor's (Leveque) barn
19. Blacksmith shop site
20. Hog fattening pen
21. Cistern
22. Square crib
23. Seed house
24. Gin house site
25. Boiler room site
26. Cattle dip and milking shed
27. Wagon shed site
28. Old mule barn site (burned ca. 1927)
29. Cotton picker shed
30. Tractor shed
31. Mule barn/smokehouse
32. Washerwoman's cabin site, also moved from behind main house to serve as a fishing camp cottage
33. Unidentified

Figure 19 — Map of Oakland Plantation rendered from a 1966 aerial photograph.

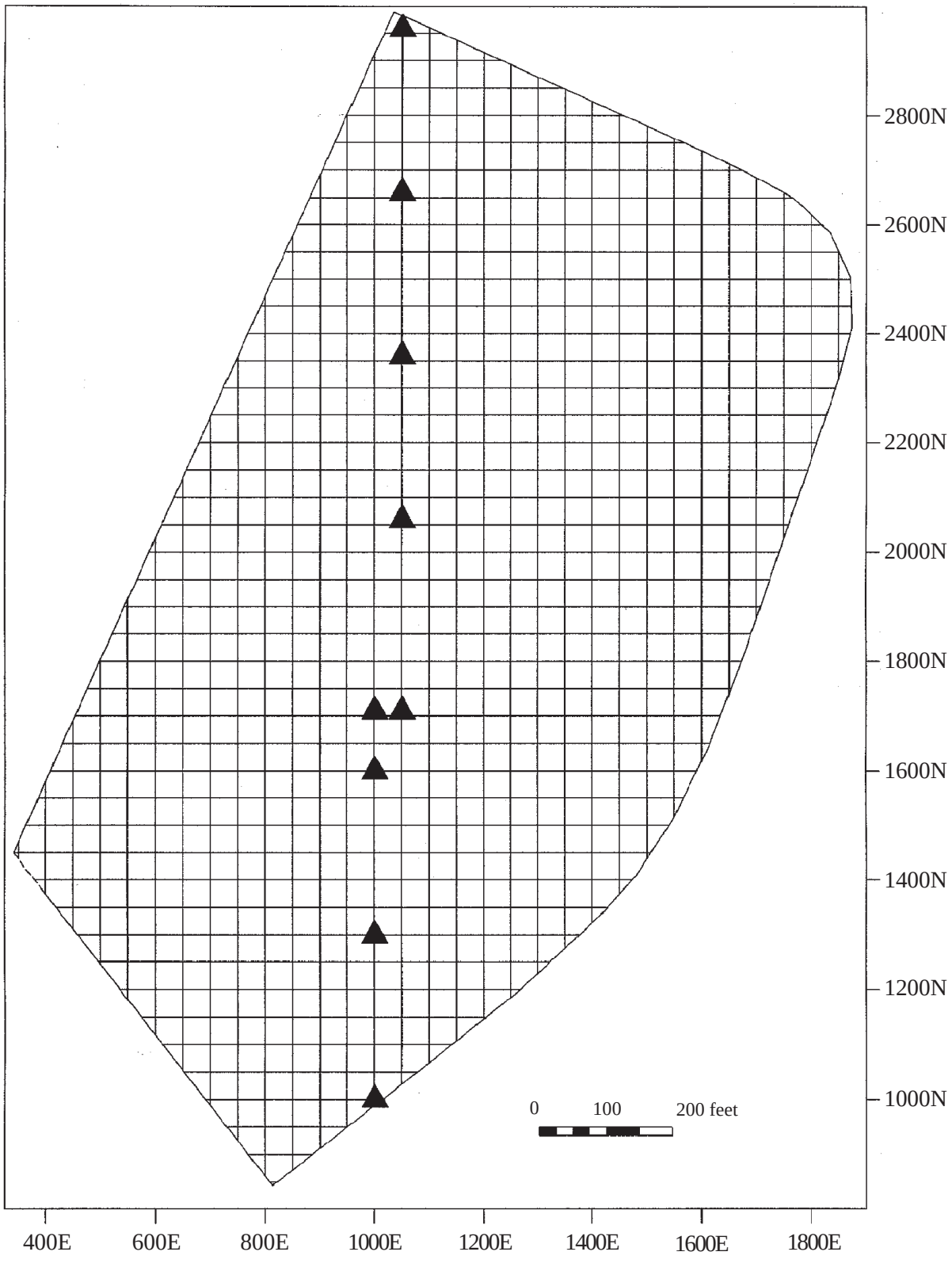


Figure 20 — Datum points.

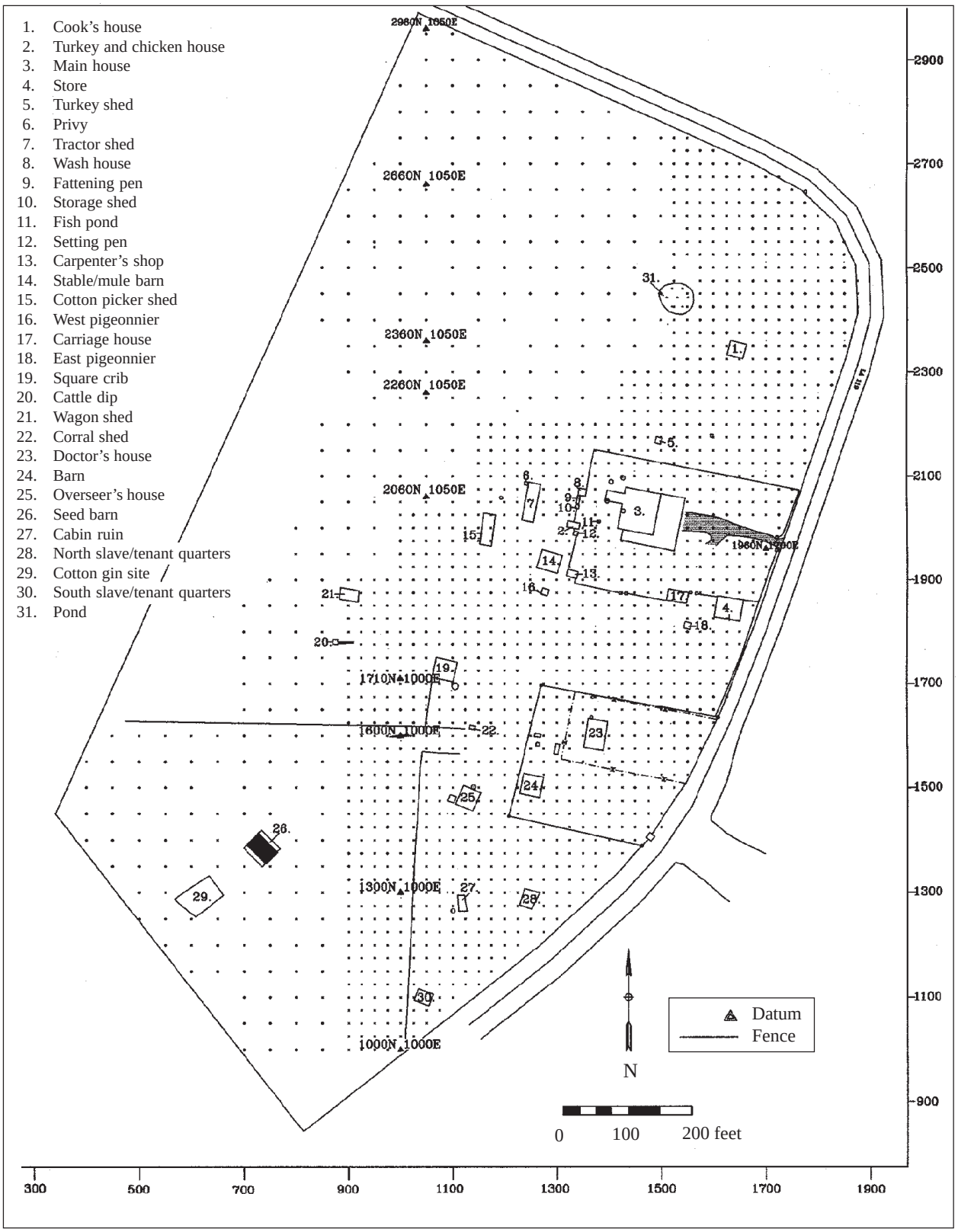


Figure 21 — Structure and auger test locations.

Figure 22 — Establishing the grid.

It is important to mention the conditions under which the crew worked. The average daily temperature was 94 degrees Fahrenheit, while the humidity level averaged 90 percent. The pin flagging crew's work was especially arduous due to the dense growth of mock orange and bois d'arc.

Between May 19 and June 27, a total of 1,660 auger tests were drilled in addition to the formal excavations conducted in the graveyard and elsewhere on the plantation. In 466 (28 percent) of the auger tests, no cultural material was recovered. Twenty-seven or 2.3 percent of the positive auger tests contained enough data to warrant the assignment of a feature number.

STRATIGRAPHY

Soil levels encountered during the auger-testing program were formed during the Holocene and late Pleistocene eras, when alluvial deposits formed the Red River floodplains. They range from well-drained soils to poorly drained clayey soils. Cultural activity, such as plowing, has impacted the physical characteristics of the sediments. Time, fill episodes, erosion, and biological influences have shaped the characteristics of Oakland's stratigraphy. These activities are represented in the stratigraphy as plowed soil, post molds, brick footings for structures and brick piers, brick and mortar construction rubble, and midden deposits, which were assigned feature numbers. The stratigraphic profiles typical of these features and of the sediments are illustrated in Figure 23.

In areas of the park that have undergone cultivation, the stratigraphy consisted of a plowzone ranging from 0.35 to 1.1 feet in depth and, in color, from dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) to dark brown (7.5YR 3/4). This layer (Zone I) rested on culturally sterile subsoil (Zone II) of the same parent material. The subsoil ranged in color from yellowish red (5YR 4/6) to reddish brown (5YR 4/4). In areas that had not been plowed, the stratigraphy consisted of two layers. The first layer (Zone I) was a silty-loam ranging in color from reddish brown (5YR 4/4) to dark brown (7.5YR 4/4). The second layer (Zone II) was a clayey-silt ranging from yellowish red (5YR 4/6) to dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3).

FEATURES

Twenty-seven features were recorded at Oakland Plantation during the auger-testing program. They have been grouped into four categories: in situ structural remains, construction rubble, midden, and post mold (Table 1).

In Situ Structural Remains

Due to the lack of historically accurate maps, we have encountered problems correlating the location of in situ structural features (Figures 24 and 25) with the historic location of structures. Features 1, 8, 11, and 19 were intact brick. Feature 1 was located near the cotton gin ruin in the southwest corner of the plantation. Feature 8 was lo-

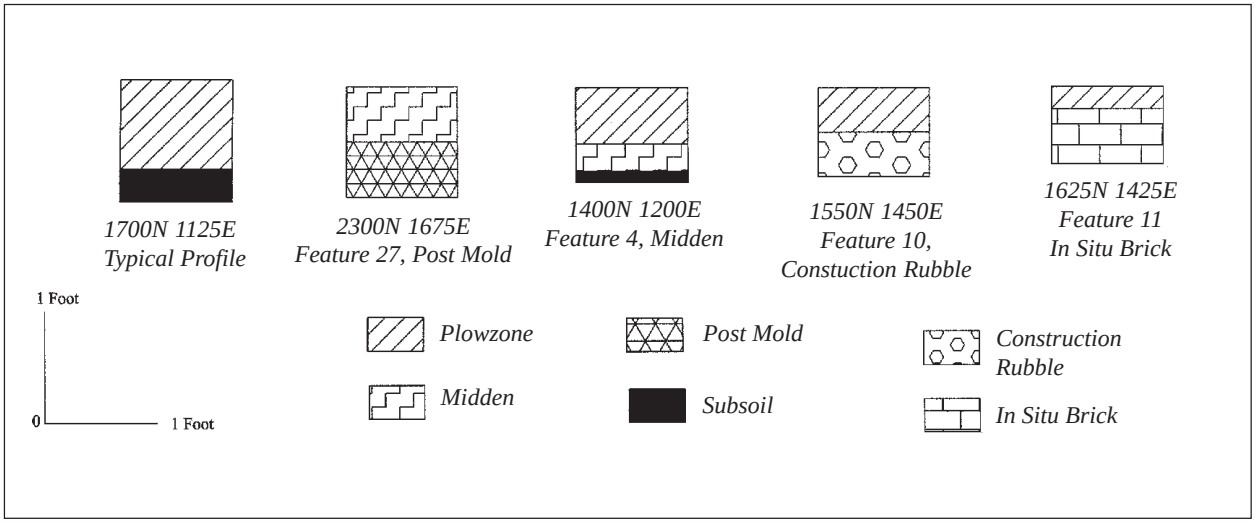


Figure 23 — Stratigraphic profiles.

cated 10 to 15 feet north of the west pigeonnier. In the front yard of the doctor's house, we uncovered feature 11, while Feature 19 was located in the backyard of the main house.

Construction Rubble

Most of our features (fourteen) were construction rubble (Figures 26 and 27) composed of either brick or mortar and brick. Some of the construction rubble features represent fill episodes. Feature 13, located next to a filled cistern north of the doctor's house, likely represents construction materials from the cistern.

Midden

Eight midden features were recorded at Oakland (Figure 28). One of these, Feature 27, was classified as both a midden and a post mold feature. Features 2, 4, and 5 were located in the vicinity of the slave/tenant houses and the overseer's house. Feature 14 was located behind the doctor's house, near a former gristmill. The remaining three features were situated in the proximity of the main house. The middens contained such artifacts as metal fragments, plastic, bone, nails, ceramics, and glass. Several of these features guided the placement of formal test units.

Table 1 — Feature numbers by category (total = 27).

In Situ	*Rubble*	*Midden*	*Post Mold*
1	3	2	27
8	6	4	
11	7	5	
19	9	14	
26	10	18	
	12	20	
	13	25	
	15		
	16		
	17		
	21		
	22		
	23		
	24		

Post Mold

Feature 27, shown on Figure 28, was encountered in the area north of the main house, which is traditionally the location of the blacksmith shop. The post mold can also be categorized as a midden feature. The top layer was composed of a dark brown to black humic soil and contained metal objects, slag, nails, ceramics, and brick.

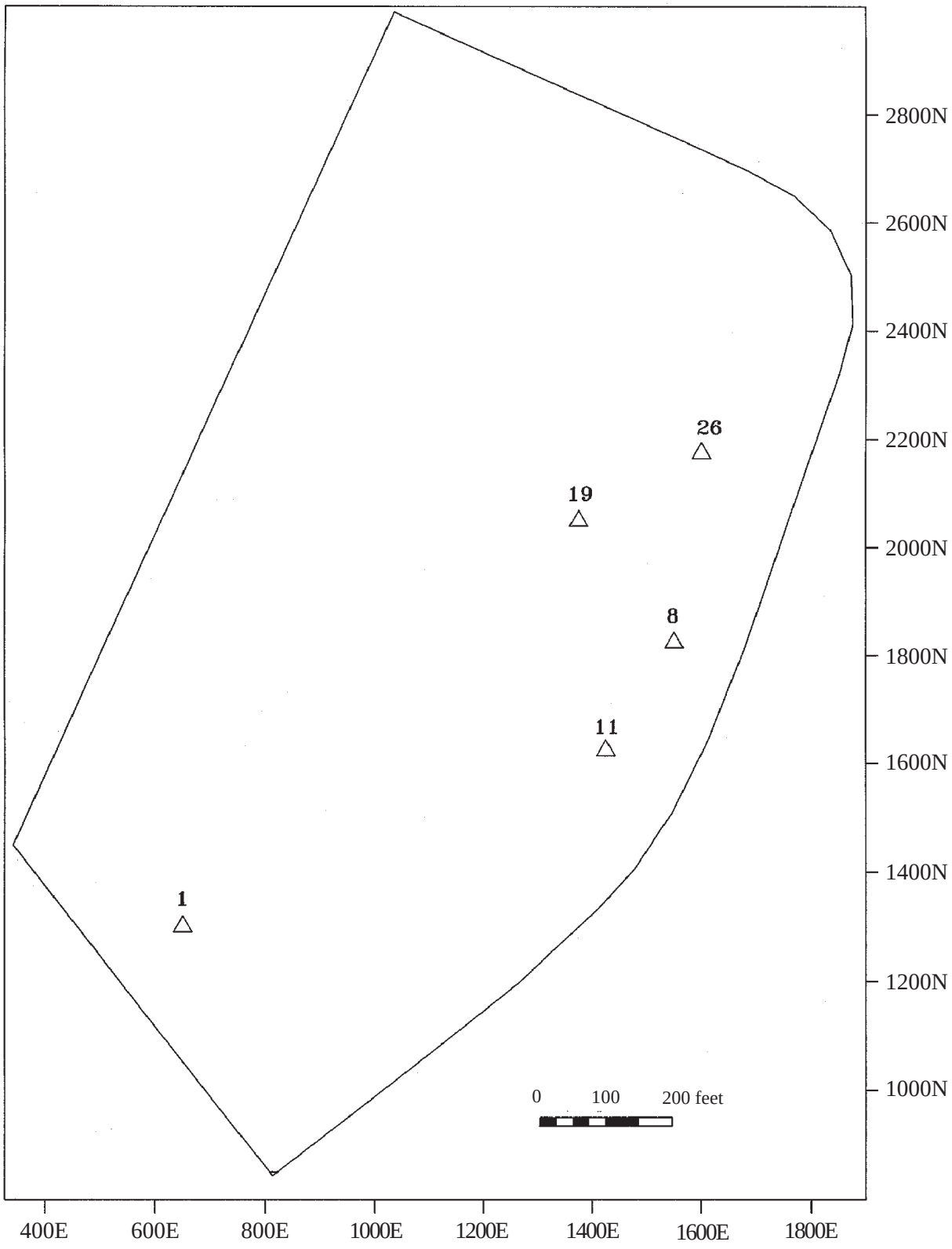


Figure 24 — In situ structural features.

Figure 25 (left) — An in situ structural feature (Feature 11).

Figure 26 (right) — A construction rubble feature (Feature 7).

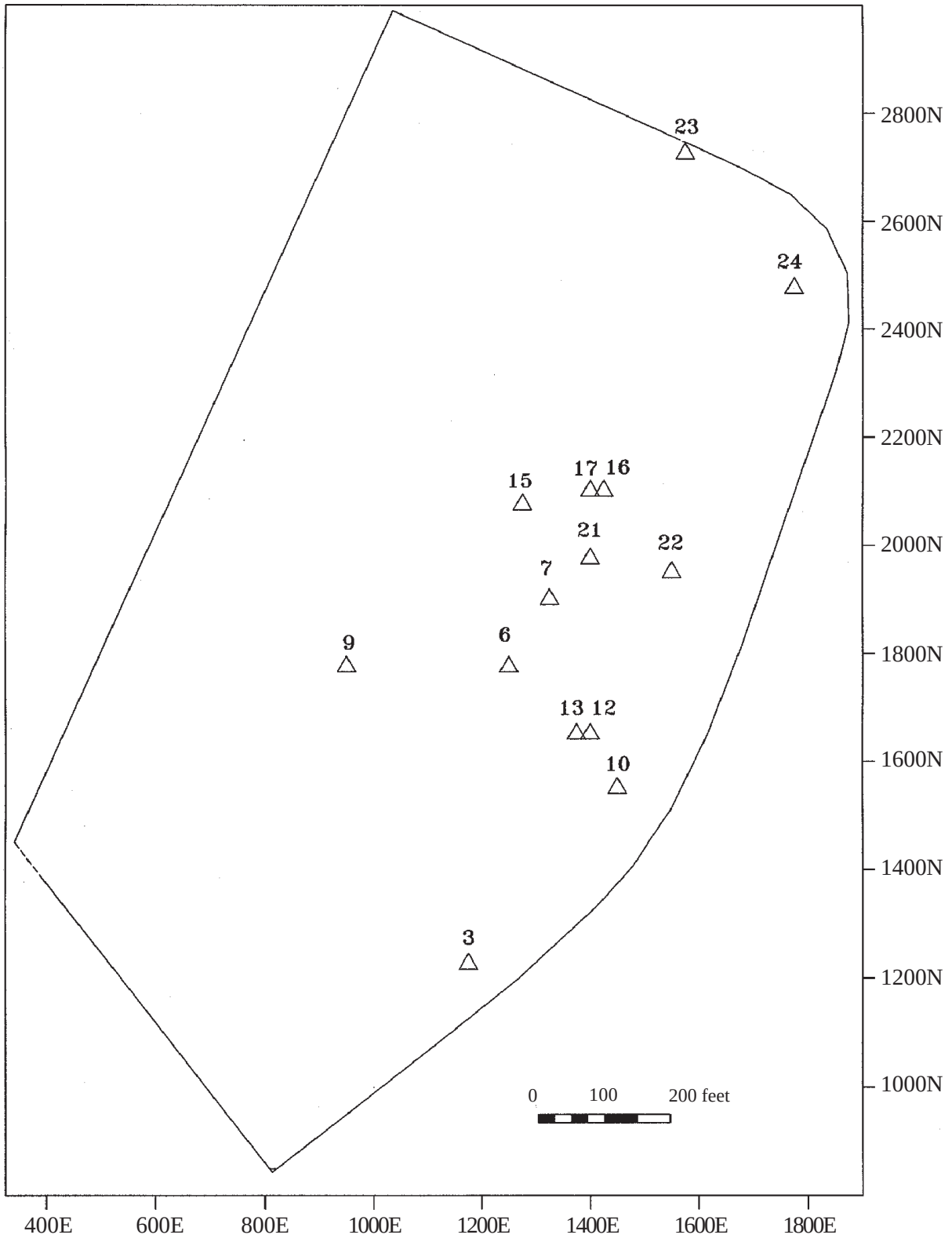


Figure 27— Construction rubble features.

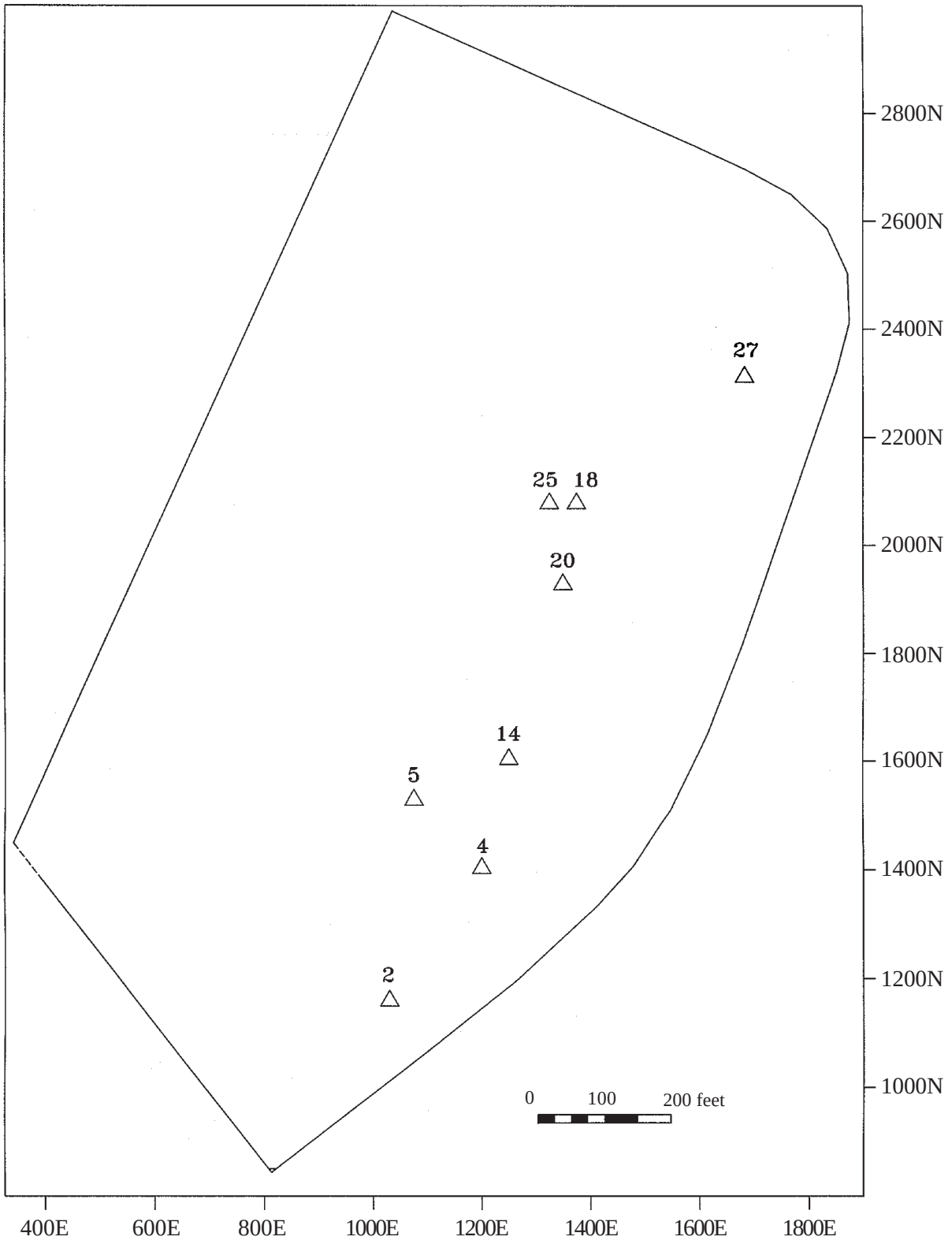


Figure 28 — Midden features, including Feature 27, a post mold (see Table 1).

Chapter 5
Analysis

Upon the crew's return to the Southeast Archeological Center, the field documentation was arranged to facilitate its use in a systematic order. All field maps were digitized using AutoCad software, and all the photographs were transferred to laser disc format. Artifacts from the auger-testing program were immediately washed, dried, sorted, and rebagged for analysis. SEAC conforms to the standards established by the National Park Service's publication *Automated National Cataloging System (ANCS) User Manual* (NPS 1987) and *The Revised Nomenclature for Museum Cataloging* (Blackaby et al. 1988).

Once analysis and data entry were completed, the database was checked for errors and data manipulation began. The database lists 12,642 specimens, weighing 194,291.02 grams. We placed the artifacts into nine groups: structures, food, personal, clothing, agriculture, industrial, Native American, unidentified, and fauna (Table 2). These groups facilitate a straightforward representation of the artifacts as related to cultural behavior, agricultural activity, and other plantation activities. The artifacts in the Native American group are so few as to be negligible (0.19 percent by count and 0.03 percent by weight). So too, the unidentified group (19.75 percent by count and 4.29 percent by weight) does not retain information pertinent to the interpretation of the plantation.

STRUCTURES GROUP

The structures group composes 22.44 percent of the collection by count and 70.61 percent by weight. Brick and mortar were weighed but not counted, which accounts for the low percentage. For clarity, the group was divided into three subgroups: (1) building materials or structure elements, (2) electrical and plumbing materials, and (3) furnishings (Table 3).

Structure Elements

Most of the artifacts found in the structures group were classified as structure elements (Table 4). The subgroup includes such items as mortar, brick, nails, windowpane glass, roofing slate, and other roofing materials. The brick, mortar, and slate were

Table 2 — Artifact groups by count and weight, and their percentages of the total count and weight.

Group	*Count*	*% By Count*	*Weight (g)*	*% By Weight*
Structures	2,836	22.44	137,195.84	70.61
Food	4,521	35.76	18,862.39	9.71
Personal	52	.41	329.79	.17
Clothing	48	.38	135.01	.07
Agriculture	463	3.66	13,328.79	6.86
Industrial	448	3.54	3,808.52	1.96
Native American	24	.19	62.93	.03
Unidentified	2,497	19.75	8,325.17	4.29
Fauna	1,753	13.87	12,242.58	6.30
Total	12,642	100.00	194,291.02	100.00

Table 3 — Structures group subgroups.

Subgroup	*Artifact Count*	*Weight (g)*
Structure elements	2,689	135,732.62
Electrical/plumbing materials	110	180.59
Furnishings	37	1,282.63
Total	2,836	137,195.84

Table 4 — Structure elements subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Brick	—	118,541.80
Lock	1	64.03
Mortar	—	5,727.16
Nail, roofing	5	17.67
Nail	2,397	9,149.29
Slate	—	1,587.30
Tar fragment	2	21.44
Tile	46	48.53
Tile, roofing	6	28.18
Trowel	1	248.60
Windowpane glass	231	298.62
Total	2,689	135,732.62

weighed but not counted. Nails were classified as either handwrought, machined, or indeterminate, and as wire or cut. There were only five roofing nails in this collection: one machine cut, one handwrought, and three wire. The remaining nails totaled 2,397 by count. Most of these were machine-cut nails (55 percent), which postdate 1830 and are almost indistinguishable from those made today (Nelson 1968). Of the remaining nails, 15 percent were machine-made wire, 30 percent indeterminate, and a negligible amount (0.13 percent) handwrought. Other items in this group include a lock and a mortar trowel.

Electrical/Plumbing Materials

This subgroup represents 3.88 percent of the structure group by count and 0.13 percent by weight. Artifacts listed in the electrical/plumbing subgroup number 110 by count and 180.59 grams by weight (Table 5). These include two pieces of drain tile, forty-three dry-cell battery fragments, coal, a glass insulator, a plug receptacle, and a fuse.

Furnishings

Thirty-seven items associated with structure furnishings are listed in this subgroup (Table 6), which represents 1.30 percent of the structures group by count and 0.93 percent by weight. These include brackets; a brad for hanging picture frames; two

Table 5 — Electrical/plumbing materials subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Battery, dry-cell	43	56.20
Bulb, light	14	2.09
Coal	48	83.41
Fuse	1	21.86
Insulator	1	1.09
Plug receptacle	1	2.18
Tile, drain	2	13.76
Total	110	180.59

Table 6 — Furnishings subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Bracket	4	363.15
Brad	1	.58
Clock fragments	2	25.24
Figurine fragments	13	80.50
Figurine, bird	1	120.06
Flowerpot fragments	8	538.72
Foot (from iron stove?)	1	120.90
Glass, lamp	1	.10
Grill	1	.38
Magnet cover	1	.69
Ornament fragments	2	2.70
Padlock	1	25.49
Pull, drawer	1	4.12
Total	37	1,282.63

Figure 29 — Clock fragment.

Figure 30 — Figurine fragments.

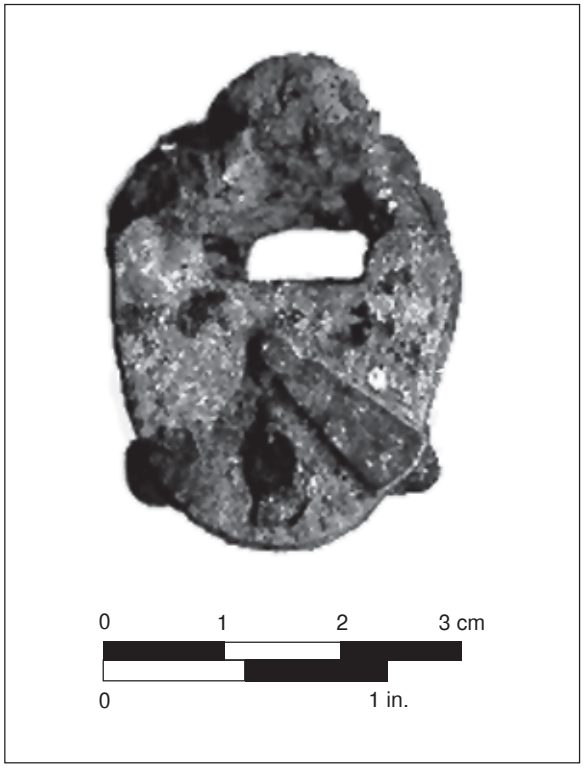


Figure 31 — Padlock.

clock fragments (Figure 29); figurine (Figure 30), ornament, and flowerpot fragments; lamp glass; a padlock (Figure 31); a drawer pull; and a magnet cover. The grill appears to be ornamental, but its exact use is unknown. Also included is a foot, which may have been a part of an iron stove.

FOOD GROUP

The food group represents 35.76 percent of the total collection by count and 9.71 percent by weight. Items listed in this group have been subdivided into (1) preparation, storage, and serving vessels; (2) procurement; and (3) packaging (Table 7). The artifacts comprising the preparation and packaging subgroups, and those identified with the structures group, highlight areas that might be domestic structure sites or structures in general. The procurement subgroup includes such items as shotgun shells, which would have been used to hunt game.

Table 7 — Food group subgroups.

Subgroup	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Preparation/storage/serving	4,133	13,665.76
Procurement	14	55.59
Packaging	374	5,141.04
Total	4,521	18,862.39

Table 8 — Preparation subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Bowl	20	1,164.32
Cup	4	3.36
Glass, wine	1	26.43
Griddle	1	141.76
Handle	1	3.30
Plate	7	128.21
Vessel, ceramic	2,325	7,570.02
Vessel, glass	1,773	4,627.85
Vessel, plastic	1	.51
Total	4,133	13,665.76

Preparation/Storage/Serving

The preparation subgroup is the largest component of the food group, making up 91.42 percent by count and 72.45 percent by weight. Items in this category include bowl, cup, plate, and wineglass fragments; ceramic, glass, and plastic vessel fragments; a griddle; and a Bakelite pot or pan handle (Table 8).

There were twenty bowl fragments: two yellow ware, sixteen whiteware, and two glass. Seven plate fragments were also identified: four whiteware, two porcelain, and one glass. One porcelain cup and two pearlware cup fragments were identified. The remaining ceramic vessel fragments constituted 56 percent of the preparation subgroup. Table 9 further subdivides the ceramics by type.

Creamware

Creamware, or refined earthenware, began to appear on American sites by 1770 (Miller and Stone 1970:42–44). There were 144 creamware fragments or 6.28 percent of the total ceramic vessel fragments. Only three decorative types were present: annular (n = 2), blue shell edged (n = 2), and sponged (n = 2).

Pearlware

In an attempt to imitate Chinese porcelain, the manufacturer Wedgwood began adding cobalt blue to the lead glaze of refined earthenwares. "Pearl White" was produced between 1779 and 1830 (Noël Hume 1969:128; Smith 1990:25). Pearlware remained popular until around 1820. Almost 16 percent of the ceramic vessel fragments were typed as pearlware. Five decorative designs were present in the collection: annular, blue shell edged, green shell edged, flow blue, and polychrome (Figure 32).

Whiteware and Ironstone

Whiteware production began in the 1820s and continues today (South 1978:211). The majority of ceramic vessel fragments recovered were identified as whiteware (58.92 percent). Eight decorative designs were identified: annular, shell edged, blue shell edged, flow blue, green transfer printed, mocha, polychrome, and sponged (Figure 33). In addition to the whiteware, eighteen ironstone fragments were recovered. Ironstone, which was manufactured between 1813 and 1900, is often classified with whitewares.

Redware

Redware was developed in the Netherlands and manufactured in England throughout the eighteenth century. By the mid to late eighteenth century it was being imported to America (Noël Hume 1969:120). There are thirty-five redware fragments in the collection.

Yellow Ware

England began shipping yellow wares to America in the late 1820s. They were a welcome change from the more porous and fragile redwares. By the 1840s and 1850s, yellow wares were being mass-produced in Pennsylvania, Vermont, New York, Maryland, and New Jersey. They reached

Table 9 — Ceramic types by count and weight and their percentages of total count and weight.

Category	*Type*	*Count*	*% Count*	*Weight (g)*	*% Weight*
Creamware	Plain	138	6.01	236.68	2.63
	Annular	2	.09	1.40	.02
	Blue shell edged	2	.09	3.56	.04
	Sponged	2	.09	.28	.00
Earthenware	Untyped	12	.52	19.60	.22
Pearlware	Plain	346	15.08	616.18	6.86
	Annular	6	.26	13.58	.15
	Blue shell edged	4	.17	66.86	.74
	Flow blue	4	.17	7.36	.08
	Green shell edged	2	.09	2.50	.03
	Polychrome	4	.17	6.20	.07
Porcelain		136	5.93	312.84	3.48
Redware		35	1.53	490.92	5.47
Slipware		29	1.26	192.46	2.14
Stoneware	Albany slipped	27	1.18	432.91	4.82
	Albany slipped, Bristol glazed	5	.22	107.04	1.19
	Bristol glazed	4	.17	247.72	2.76
	Salt glazed	3	.13	7.18	.08
	Slipped dipped refined	4	.17	9.06	.10
	Untyped	78	3.40	736.33	8.20
Whiteware	Plain	1,323	57.65	4,756.34	52.96
	Annular	10	.44	15.86	.18
	Blue shell edged	6	.26	15.24	.17
	Flow blue	4	.17	5.02	.06
	Green transfer printed	2	.09	1.36	.01
	Mocha	2	.09	1.48	.02
	Polychrome	2	.09	.96	.01
	Shell edged	1	.04	1.76	.02
	Sponged	2	.09	.80	.01
Ironstone		18	.78	170.94	1.90
Yellow ware	Plain	72	3.14	490.92	5.47
	Banded	4	.17	5.32	.06
Indeterminate ware		6	.26	4.48	.05
Total		2,295	100.00	8,981.14	100.00

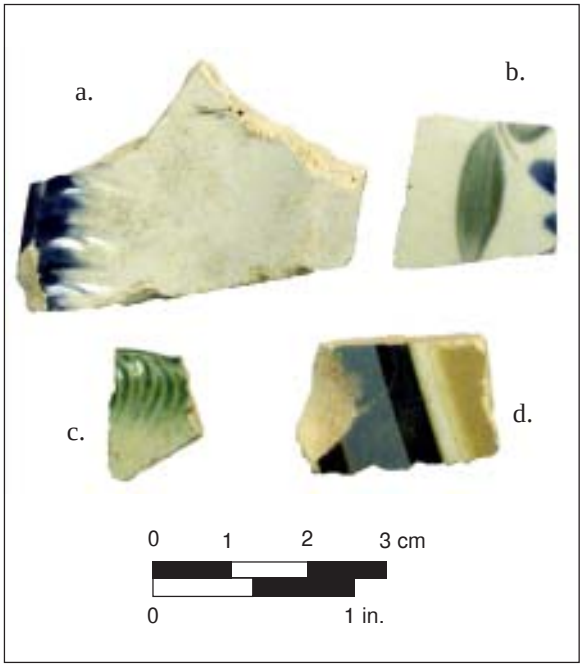


Figure 32 — Pearlware fragments: a, blue shell edged; b, hand painted; c, green shell edged; d, annular.

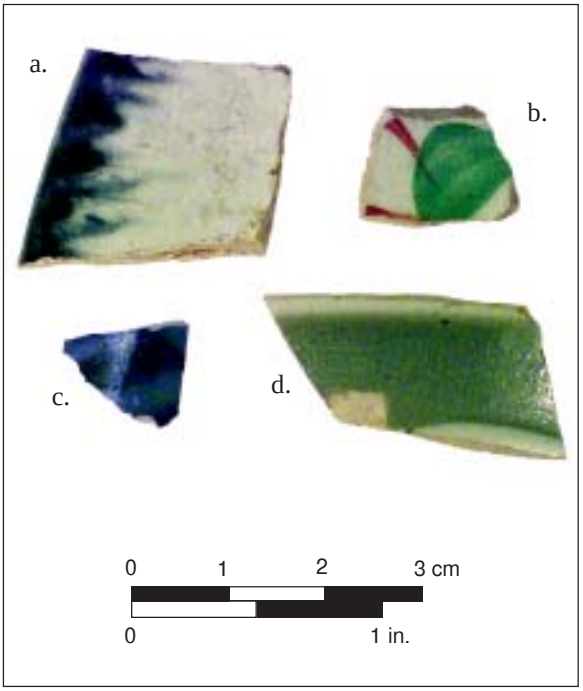


Figure 33 — Whiteware fragments: a, blue shell edged; b, polychrome; c, flow blue; d, annular.

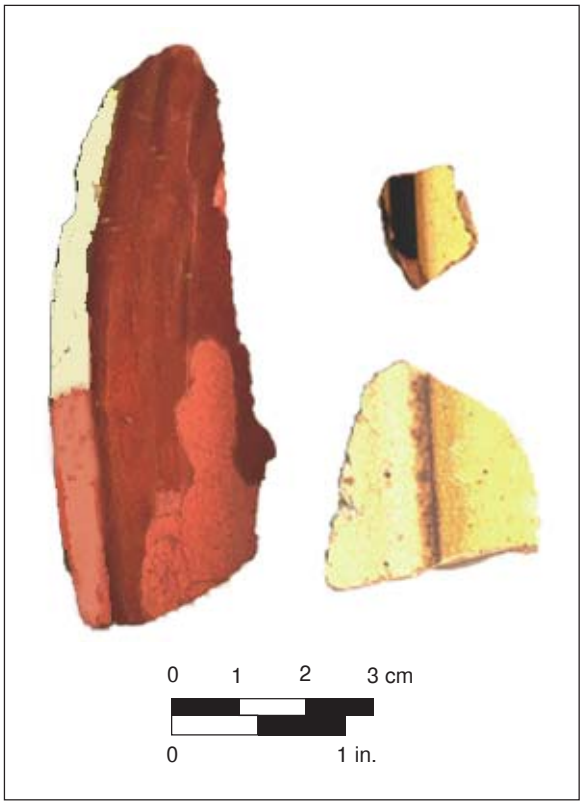


Figure 34 — Slipware fragments.

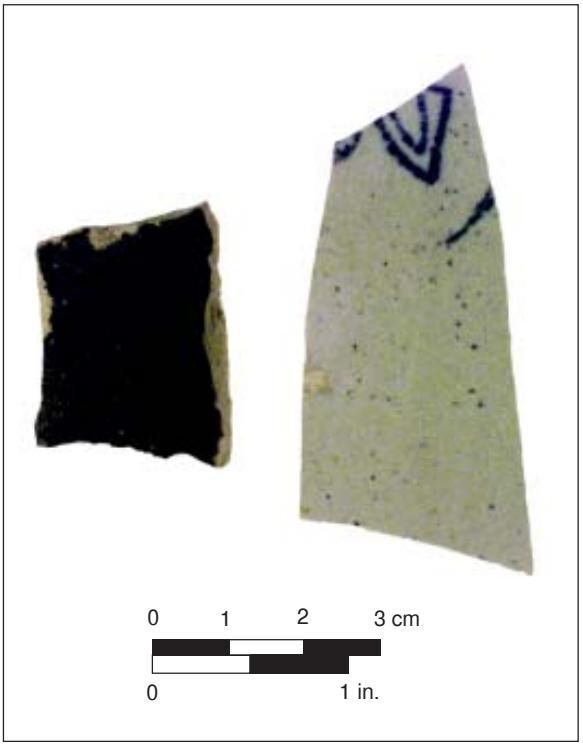


Figure 35 — Stoneware fragments: left, Albany slipped; right, Bristol glazed.

their peak of popularity in the 1860s and 1870s. Shortly after the turn of the century, yellow ware production stopped (Liebowitz 1985:9). The collection includes seventy-six yellow ware fragments of which seventy-two are plain and four are banded.

Slipware

Slipware was manufactured during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in England and was exported to America as late as the 1770s. Its classification falls somewhere between coarse and refined earthenware. Slipware was decorated in a variety of ways with iron oxide or manganese under a pale yellow to clear glaze. Twenty-nine slipware fragments were identified in the collection (Figure 34).

Stoneware

Before the development of stoneware (Figure 35), earthenware was used for the preparation, cooking, and storage of beverages and food. Earthenware, fired at lower temperatures than stoneware, is more porous and tends to leak. In addition, the lead used to glaze earthenware is soluble in weak acids when used in low-temperature glazes. Leakproof, durable, and acid resistant stoneware became the preferred vessel for household use (Greer 1981:16).

Porcelain

Porcelain is fired at a higher temperature than any other ceramic. Its high-gloss glaze, which does not flake, makes it easily distinguishable from other ceramics. In the early seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, porcelain was an expensive luxury, but the price and quality had declined by the end of the eighteenth century. Thereafter, porcelain became increasingly common (Noël Hume 1969:257). There were 136 porcelain fragments identified in the ceramic collection.

Glass Vessel Fragments

Glass vessel fragments were classified into three types: container glass, tableware, and insufficient portion. The container category includes fragments that could be identified as a container, but for which the actual form (bowl, bottle, jar, etc.) could not be determined. Container glass represents 80 percent of the glass vessel fragments. Tableware only accounts for 0.67 percent of the total. When fragments were identified as vessels but could not be classified as a closure, container, or tableware fragment, they were placed in the insufficient portion category. This typology represents 19 percent of the glass vessel fragment collection.

PROCUREMENT

Although hunting and fishing can be viewed as recreational activities, they were also a means of supplementing the plantation population's diet. From this standpoint, all firearm-related items have been placed in the food group (Table 10). The procurement subgroup, which accounts for 0.31 percent of the food group artifacts by count, includes two bullets, three cartridge cases, three shotgun shells, and six shot pellets.

Table 10 — Procurement subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Bullet	2	1.79
Case, cartridge	3	13.42
Shell, shotgun	3	18.16
Shot	6	22.22
Total	14	55.59

PACKAGING

Items used in food and beverage storage are included in this subgroup (Table 11). The 374 items account for 8.27 percent of the total food group by count and 27.25 percent by weight. Can and bottle fragments compose 81.80 percent of the subgroup. Bottles (e.g., Figure 36) were divided into three categories: liquor, soft drink, and container. There are forty-four liquor bottle fragments and thirty-four soft drink bottle fragments in the collection. The majority (n = 88) of the bottle fragments could not be identified, in terms of use, beyond container.

The Owens Illinois Bottling Company manufactured several of the bottles. Only two had sufficient commercial markings to determine the

Table 11 — Packaging subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Bottle	166	2,688.53
Can	105	1,516.76
Cap	14	186.53
Cap, bottle	8	32.20
Cap, snap	1	.80
Jar	21	436.91
Key, can	5	41.16
Lid	26	142.16
Lid, jar	1	34.26
Liner, lid	17	38.39
Pull top	6	8.07
Stopper, bottle	1	13.55
Wrapper	3	1.72
Total	374	5,141.04

manufacture date. One was made in 1950, the other in either 1954 or 1956 (Toulouse 1971:403–406). The markings around the base of one bottle read: Crystal Ice & Bottling Co. Ltd. Natchitoches, Louisiana 6 1/2 Fluid Oz (Figure 37). The fragments of another bottle made by the Maryland Glass Corporation displayed a trademark used from 1916 to the present (Toulouse 1971:339–341). Coca-Cola bottle fragments were also recovered.

PERSONAL GROUP

This group contains personal items owned individually or shared by a single household (Table 12). Toys or recreational objects found in this group include a ball fragment and a basketball fragment, a jew's harp (Figure 38), a cold cream jar fragment, phonograph record fragments, a camera lens, marbles (Figure 39), and a toy pistol (Figure 40). The beads were included because they were identified as ornamental. The artifact count (n = 52) is relatively small compared to the other groups. It is only 0.41 percent of the total collection by count and 0.17 percent by weight. Tobacco pipe fragments (Figure 41) are the most prevalent items in the group (32.69 percent).

Figure 36 — Bottle recovered from Oakland.

CLOTHING GROUP

Personal clothing articles, accessories, and other items directly related to the care of clothing, such as clothespins, compose 0.38 percent of the collection count and 0.07 percent by weight (Table 13). Buttons—made of aluminum, bone, brass, copper, glass, and plastic—are the most common clothing group artifact. One brass military button was recovered.

AGRICULTURE GROUP

This artifact group represents 3.66 percent of the collection by count and 6.86 percent by weight. It is divided into two subgroups: field paraphernalia and machinery, tools, and accessories (Table 14).

Figure 37 — Bottle with markings around the base that read "Crystal Ice & Bottling Co. Ltd. Natchitoches, Louisiana 6 1/2 Fluid Oz."

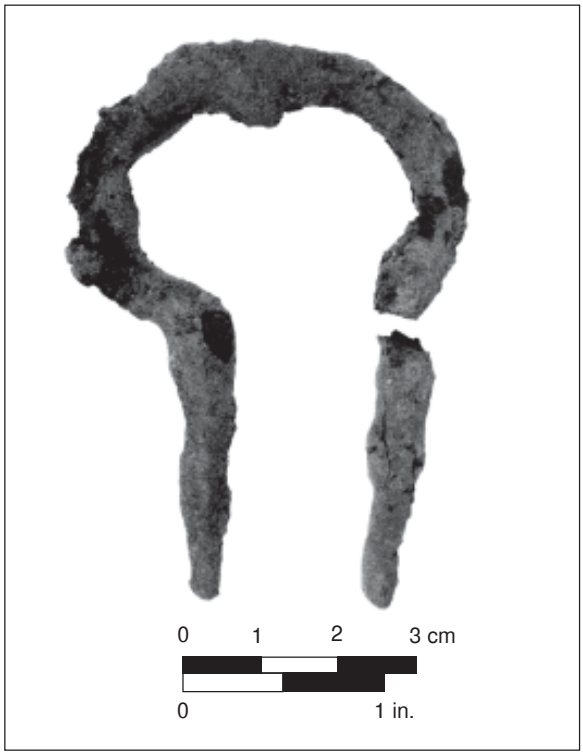


Figure 38 — Jew's harp.

Table 12 — Personal group by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Ball	1	121.18
Basketball	1	8.11
Bead, ornamental	2	1.66
Binder, ring	3	2.80
Bottle, medicine	1	9.47
Bottle, toilet	1	8.89
Camera, single lens reflex	1	1.12
Cap	1	5.06
Chain	1	1.24
Jew's harp	2	21.43
Knife, pocket	2	22.19
Marble	5	27.60
Pencil	1	.22
Pencil, slate	2	6.57
Phonograph record fragments	8	6.05
Pipe, tobacco	17	20.72
Pistol (toy)	1	18.07
Tube	1	27.07
Vessel fragment (cold cream jar)	1	20.34
Total	52	329.79

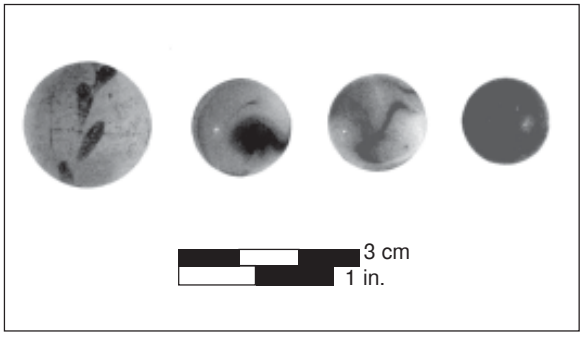


Figure 39 — Clay (far left) and glass marbles.

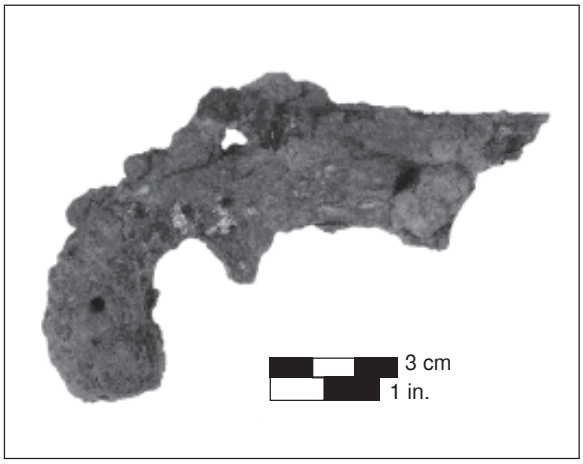


Figure 40 — Toy gun.

Table 13 — Clothing group by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Buckle, belt	2	1.92
Button	24	17.37
Button, military	1	5.46
Cloth fragment	1	1.04
Clothespin	1	3.14
Grommet	9	8.68
Leather fragment	4	1.36
Pin, safety	1	.78
Shoe	4	94.63
Snap, fastener	1	.63
Total	48	135.01

Table 14 — Agriculture group by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Field paraphernalia	315	1,135.99
Machinery	109	7,156.26
Tools/accessories	39	5,036.54
Total	463	13,328.79

Figure 41 — Tobacco pipe fragments.

Field Paraphernalia

The items in this subgroup—fence staples, wire, and barbed wire—were used to separate fields or keep livestock in penned areas (Table 15).

Table 15 — Field paraphernalia subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Staple, fence	43	240.71
Wire	234	683.27
Wire, barbed	38	212.01
Total	315	1,135.99

Machinery, Tools, and Accessories

This subgroup includes items related to farm machinery, machine accessories, and tools (Table 16). Transportation related artifacts, such as automobile windowpane fragments, are included because transportation vehicles were used in the plantation's operation. The fragments of a glass poultry waterer are included as an accessory to agricultural endeavors. Other artifact examples include a swivel (Figure 42), a singletree center clip (Figure 43), and a pincer fragment (Figure 44).

INDUSTRIAL GROUP

Artifacts in this group relate to manufacturing (Table 17). They include slag, charcoal, and bar iron from the blacksmith shop.

NATIVE AMERICAN GROUP

Items related to Native American cultures compose the smallest artifact group recovered during the auger-testing program (Table 18). By count, the artifacts represent 0.19 percent of the total and, by weight, 0.03 percent. Included in this group are two pieces of debitage, two flakes, one shatter fragment, and nineteen vessel fragments. Dr. Hiram Gregory identified seven of the vessel fragments as Choctaw in origin and five as Caddoan. The other seven fragments could not be identified.

Table 16 — Machinery, tools, and accessories subgroup by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Band	3	109.01
Barrel	3	756.10
Blade	4	485.99
Bolt	5	222.57
Cable	2	8.44
Chain	3	128.81
Clamp	1	.91
Cordage	1	.74
Fastener	1	.73
Ferrule	1	74.12
File	1	296.10
Hammer	1	386.30
Handle	7	2,419.53
Hatchet	1	512.90
Hook	7	223.81
Linkage, mechanical	1	48.65
Nut	5	99.75
Pin	1	47.30
Pincer	1	547.20
Pipe	4	1,030.29
Pipette	1	.67
Plow, moldboard	6	482.47
Ring	7	138.52
Rivet	2	15.07
Screw	8	54.85
Seal	2	9.48
Singletree	1	157.02
Sleeve	2	1,883.20
Spike	22	724.51
Spring, spiral	2	3.40
Strap	9	447.39
Swivel	1	353.00
Tack	3	1.73
Terminal	1	3.58
Tire	11	161.86
Valve	2	36.30
Washer	7	21.24
Waterer, poultry	6	291.46
Windowpane, auto	2	7.80
Total	148	12,192.80

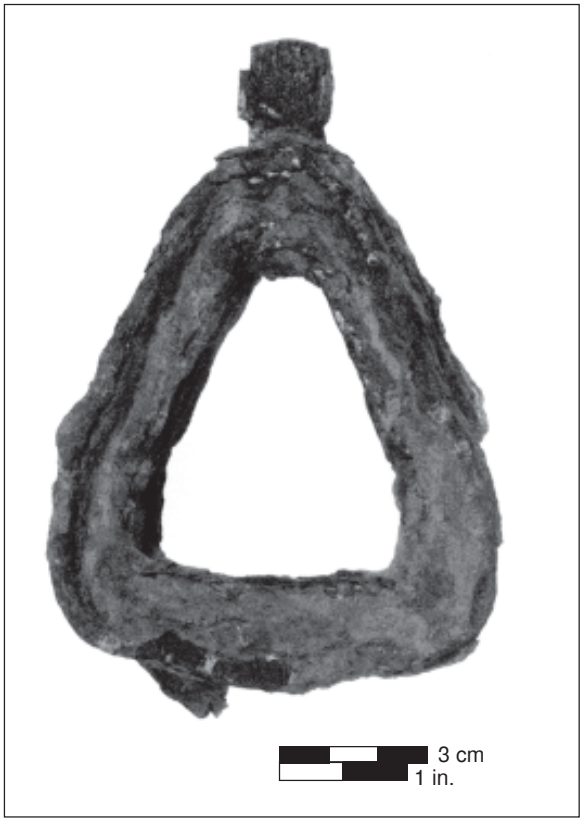


Figure 42 — Swivel.

Table 17 — Industrial group by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Bar iron	6	581.33
Charcoal	73	43.85
Slag	369	3,183.34
Total	448	3,808.52

Table 18 — Native American group by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Debitage	2	2.42
Flake	2	1.60
Shatter	1	.73
Vessel fragment	19	58.18
Total	24	62.93

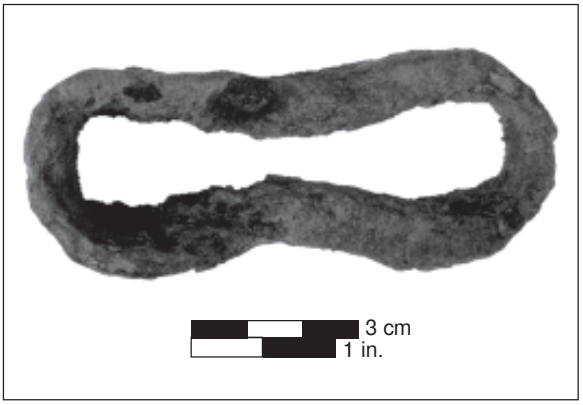


Figure 43 — Singletree center clip.

Figure 44 — Pincers.

UNIDENTIFIED GROUP

Items that had no culturally pertinent information or could not be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty were relegated to the unidentified group (Table 19). These items include: fired clay, fiber, foil, glass fragments, metal fragments, paper, tape, plastic fragments, rubber fragments, unmodified stone, and wood fragments. They represent 19.75 percent of the total collection by count and 4.29 percent by weight.

FAUNA GROUP

The fauna group accounted for 13.87 percent of the artifact collection by count and 6.30 percent by weight. Six taxonomic groups were identified (Table 20). Bivalves were the largest group within the assemblage by weight (77.38 percent). Two of the groups could not be identified beyond Animalia and Mammalia; their combined weight represents 16.46 percent of the collection. The remainder of the group includes birds (0.23 percent by weight), tortoises (3.03 percent by weight), and vertebrates (2.90 percent by weight).

Table 19 — Unidentified group by count and weight.

Item	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Clay, fired	9	9.58
Fiber	2	.09
Foil	7	2.04
Glass fragment	860	634.34
Metal fragment	1,487	7,439.52
Paper	1	1.84
Plastic fragment	95	72.38
Rubber fragment	7	21.93
Stone, unmodified	3	21.37
Tape	3	.46
Unidentified	4	45.57
Wood fragment	19	76.05
Total	2,497	8,325.17

Table 20 — Fauna group by count, weight, and percentage.

Taxon	*Count*	*Weight (g)*	*(%)*
Animalia (animals)	14	12.80	.10
Aves (birds)	46	27.60	.23
Bivalvia (bivalves)	—	9,473.65	77.38
Mammalia (mammals)	550	2,003.00	16.36
Testudines (tortoises)	438	371.10	3.03
Vertebrata (vertebrates)	705	354.43	2.90
Total	1,753	12,242.58	100.00

SUMMARY

This chapter described the collection in terms of its variety and quantity. The auger-testing program did not provide the necessary control for temporal studies of a stratigraphic nature, but it did produce information that could be manipulated to provide baseline data concerning the plantation's archeological nature. The archeological information could then, in turn, be correlated with the locations of documented structures and cultural activities. Chapter 6 discusses artifact patterning and its relationship to the plantation and its inhabitants.

Chapter 6
Artifact Patterning

In order to present a clear picture of artifact patterning across the plantation, distribution maps have been generated using the Surfer mapping program (Figures 45 through 56). Artifact weight was standardized above and below the mean weight for each analytical group. Seven standard deviations (-3 to +3) were gridded using a Kriging algorithm to generate contour maps representing analytical group distributions throughout the site. Group concentrations have been assigned letters to facilitate pattern identifications.

STRUCTURES GROUP DISTRIBUTION

When the in situ structural and construction rubble features (see Figures 24 and 27) are compared to the structures group distribution map (Figure 45), most of the features correspond with high artifact concentrations within this group. These concentrations, combined with feature positions, represent structures that are no longer standing and/or the cultural activities associated with these structures. The absence of a historically accurate map predating 1947 makes the task of pinpointing structure locations reliant upon archeological data.

A high artifact concentration (A) and in situ structural Feature 1 south of the seed house represent the cotton gin's location (see Figures 4 and 24). Southeast of area B we uncovered construction rubble Feature 9 (see Figure 27), which is also associated with clothing, food, and agriculture group concentrations (Figures 48, 49, and 54). Another concentration associated with a construction rubble feature is area C, between the square crib and the doctor's house (see Figures 4 and 24).

Northeast of the main house there is quite a large concentration (D) of structures group materials. The blacksmith shop once stood near this concentration. The artifacts found here were either discarded from the blacksmith shop or the cook's house (see Figures 4 and 24).

Oral history indicates that a cotton gin once stood north of the main house but was burned before or during the Civil War. Area E may indicate the gin's location. Further archeological investigations are warranted.

In situ structural Feature 8 was uncovered between the west pigeonnier and the carriage house (see Figures 4 and 24). A structures group concentration is present in the area (F) as well. The remains of an undocumented structure may be present.

Another in situ structural feature (Feature 19) was uncovered between the wash house and the west end of the main house's kitchen ell (see Figures 4 and 24). This may have been the remains of the cook's house, which was moved northeast of the main house during the 1920s. There is another theory concerning the presence of the intact brick. The present kitchen wing (the kitchen ell) was built after the Civil War. According to family tradition, an earlier wing was removed, and the lumber was used to construct the house at Atahoe (Prud'homme and Williamson 1978). In light of this information, it is possible that this intact brick could be the remnants of the earlier wing. An intact brick feature (see Figure 24) and structures group concentration (C) east of the doctor's house is likely associated with building renovation (see Chapter 3).

The remaining structures group concentrations and construction rubble features are either associated with intact structures, or their presence represents normal loss and discard in the course of habitation.

NAILS

Three types of nails are generally found on American sites: handwrought, cut, and wire. Variations within each type can be used to date structures

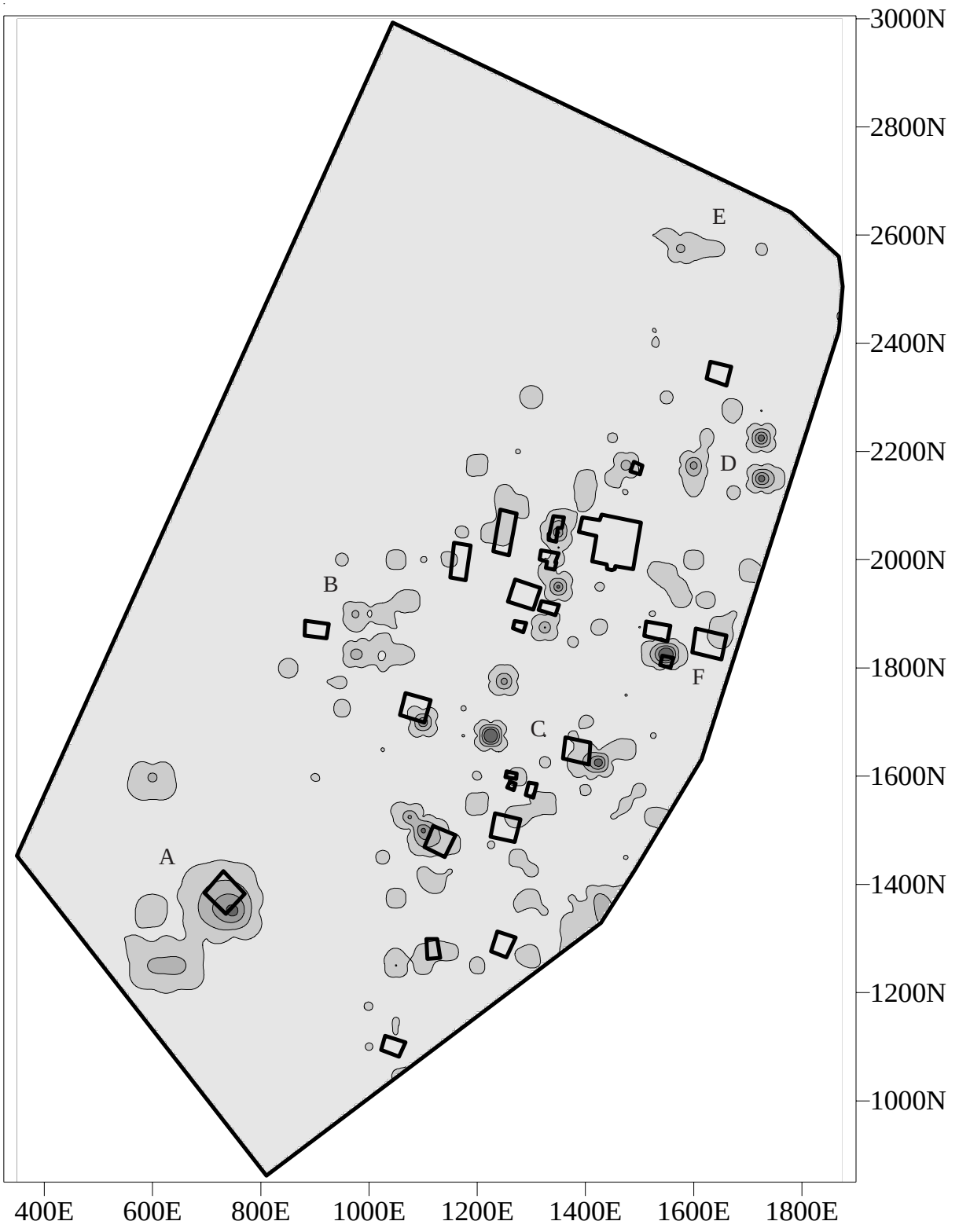


Figure 45 — Distribution of structures group data.

more precisely. For the purposes of this study, however, nails have been sorted as handwrought, cut, or machine-made wire.

Handwrought nails were used in building construction throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, even after the introduction of cheaper cut nails (Nelson 1968:2–5). Cut-nail production in America began around 1790. Patents were issued to several individuals for the invention of cut-nail machines. Unfortunately, the United States Patent Office burned in 1836, and the specific nature of these inventions are largely unknown (Edwards and Wells 1993:15; Nelson 1968:2–5). Wrought nails were favored over early cut nails, especially when clenching or trim work was required.

Prior to 1830 the metal fiber used to make cut-nails ran crosswise to the nail's length, causing them to snap when clinched. After 1830, the metal fibers ran the nail's length, and cut nails became virtually indistinguishable from those made today (Noël Hume 1969:253–254; Nelson 1968:3).

Wire-nail production in the United States began during the 1850s. The iron used in the manufacture of early wire-drawn nails contained imperfections, which made the nails weak and unsuitable for building construction. These nails were initially produced in small sizes for the construction of such items as cigar boxes (Edwards and Wells 1993:2). The technology used to make wire nails was not perfected until the 1860s or 1870s, after which time wire nails began to be produced for use in construction. By the 1890s, use of the wire nail had become predominant; builders, however, continued to use cut nails into the twentieth century (Nelson 1968:7–8).

The 2,397 nails recovered at Oakland were of three varieties: wrought, cut, and wire; this count does not include those identified as roofing nails or brads. Cut nails represented 54.86 percent of the collection; wire nails, 15.31 percent; handwrought nails, only 0.13 percent. Due to severe oxidation, 29.70 percent of the nails recovered could not be identified. Cut- and wire-nail distribution maps (Figures 46 and 47) were generated and compared to one another to determine site usage chronology. (Due to their negligible numbers, handwrought nails were not included.) The maps revealed cut- and wire-nail distributions in the same areas, and no significant distribution of either type showed up exclusive of the other in any of the areas. This suggests that the plantation's built environment was fairly stable after the 1830s.

CLOTHING GROUP DISTRIBUTION

The highest clothing group convergence is in the slave/tenant quarters areas (Figure 48, A; see Figure 4). To a lesser extent, concentrations are present in areas associated with the overseer's house (B), doctor's house (C), cotton picker shed (D), wash house (G), and south of the carriage house around the east pigeonnier (F). A concentration of clothing group materials is also present southeast of the wagon shed (E). As stated in the discussion of structures group materials, this may be the site of an earlier structure.

FOOD GROUP DISTRIBUTION

The food group distributions are representative of the loss and discard expected around structures and work areas (Figure 49; see Figure 4). The distribution map reveals what appears to be a large sheet midden around the overseer's house (A). Another midden (B) begins around the carpenter's shop and the stable/mule barn and extends to the northwest around the tractor shed and beyond. In Figure 49, area C, east of the wagon shed, corresponds with B on the structures group distribution map (see Figure 45) and E on the clothing distribution map (see Figure 48). A large concentration (D) is also present east of the carpenter's shop, south of the main house. The concentration in area E is associated with either the blacksmith shop site or the cook's house shown on Figure 4.

Ceramics

Emmanuel Prud'homme received his land grant in 1789. Several of the ceramic types recovered at Oakland began appearing on North American sites around the same time. However, the Oakland types

Figure 46 — Distribution of cut nails.

Figure 47 — Distribution of machine-made wire nails.

Figure 48 — Distribution of clothing group data.

lack sufficient diagnostic attributes to place them within a specific time period. Only thirty-five redware fragments were recovered: these began to appear on American sites in the mid to late eighteenth century. The twenty-nine pieces of slipware, which was exported to America as late as the 1770s, were only a small portion of the collection. Porcelain was common on many American sites by the late eighteenth century due to its declining price. One hundred thirty-six porcelain fragments were recovered, but they lacked decorative attributes. Creamware, pearlware, and whiteware were found in larger amounts on the site, and maps were compiled to show their distribution.

Creamware

Creamware fragments accounted for only 6.28 percent of the ceramics recovered at Oakland. The highest distribution is west of the main house and north of the cotton picker shed (Figures 50, A; also see Figure 4). Before the cook's house was moved, it stood west of the main house. It would not be unreasonable to assume that discarded kitchenware was deposited somewhere behind the cook's house.

The second highest creamware dispersion (B) is directly south of the main house, in front of the carpenter's shop. Small concentrations of creamware are also present near the north slave/tenant quarters (C) and near the doctor's house. North of the wagon shed—the possible location of a structure— is another concentration of creamware (D).

Pearlware

Concurrent with the introduction of creamware on American sites is the presence of pearlware, which is known to have been present in the Natchitoches area by the 1780s. Pearlware distributions (Figure 51) are widely spread across the plantation, with very high concentrations present in eight areas.

Area A, north of the wagon shed, represents the highest pearlware concentration on the plantation. The area around the slave/tenant quarters and the overseer's house is labeled B; while the concentration around the doctor's house is C (also see Figure 4). South of the carriage house and east pigeonnier is a very high pearlware concentration (D). This was once a high traffic area, thus the loss of items would not be unusual. The concentration around the store (E) is self-evident. The large pearlware concentration south and west of the main house (F) shows its highest density west of the stable/mule barn and northeast of the carpenter's shop. Area G is north of the main house and west of the blacksmith shop site. Southeast of the cook's house is another focus of pearlware (H), which could be associated with the blacksmith shop site or the cook's house.

Whiteware

Whiteware at Oakland is concentrated in three areas. A large sheet midden (A) lies around the slave/tenant quarters, overseer's house, and doctor's house (Figure 52; also see Figure 4). Three foci are present within this area: behind and southwest of the overseer's house; northwest of Gabe Nargot's cabin (also see Figures 17–19); and around the sheds southwest of the doctor's house. Another area of concentration, area B, is found around the wagon shed. Area C includes the concentration to the north, south, and west of the main house. The mass of whiteware fragments in areas A and C, domestic structure sites, is not unusual.

PERSONAL GROUP DISTRIBUTION

Most of the recovered personal artifacts are concentrated in areas associated with known structures (Figure 53, A), around which a loss of personal items would have been normal. The high artifact concentration labeled B (north of the square crib and southwest of the cotton picker shed) is likely associated with the original mule barn. Area C is associated with the blacksmith shop or the cook's house (also see Figure 4).

AGRICULTURE GROUP DISTRIBUTION

Agriculture related artifacts are scattered across the site, but the highest densities are found in four areas (Figure 54). A concentration northeast of the overseer's house (A) can reasonably be associated with the barn and sheds nearby (see Figure 4). Area

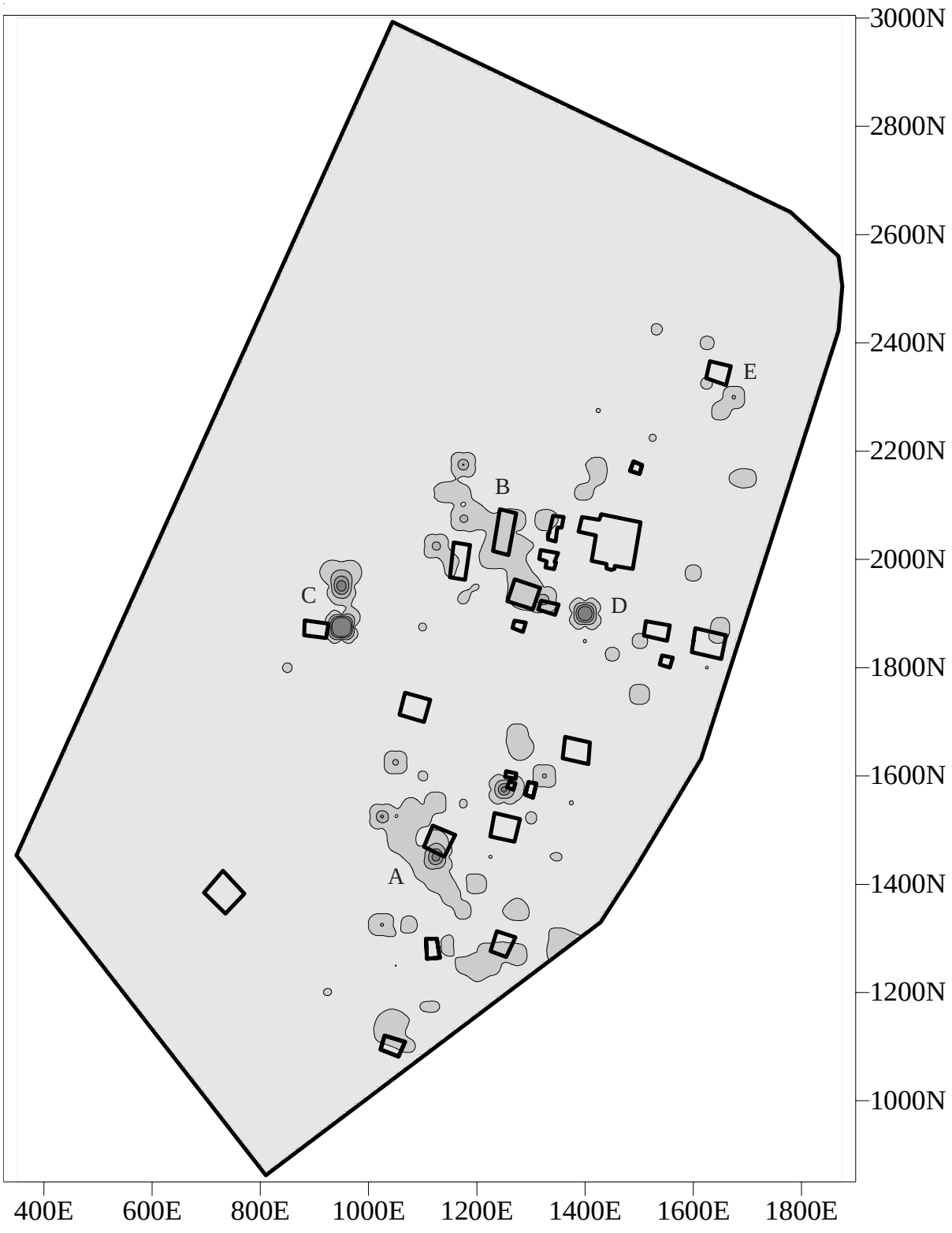


Figure 49 — Distribution of food group data.

Figure 50 — Distribution of creamware data.

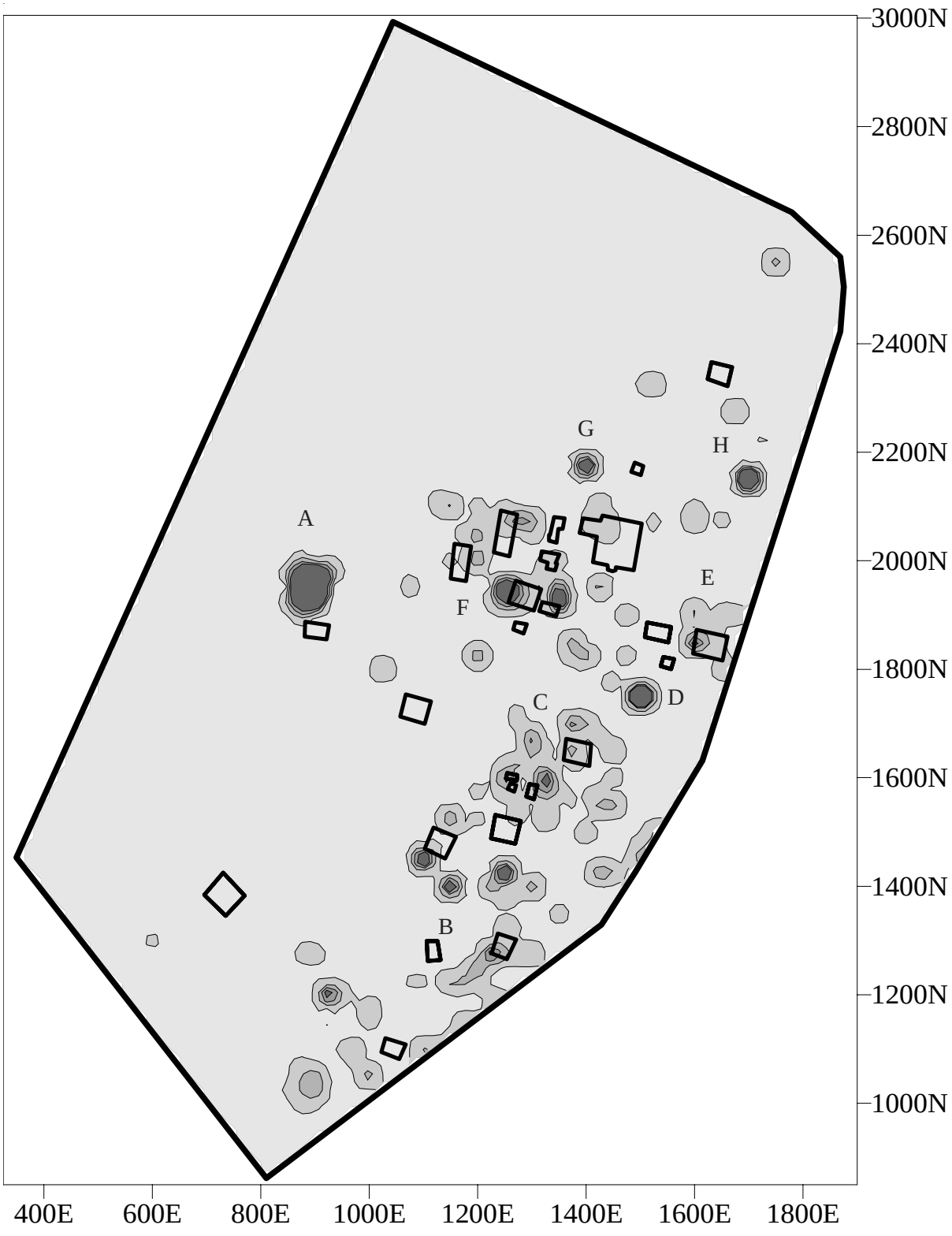


Figure 51 — Distribution of pearlware data.

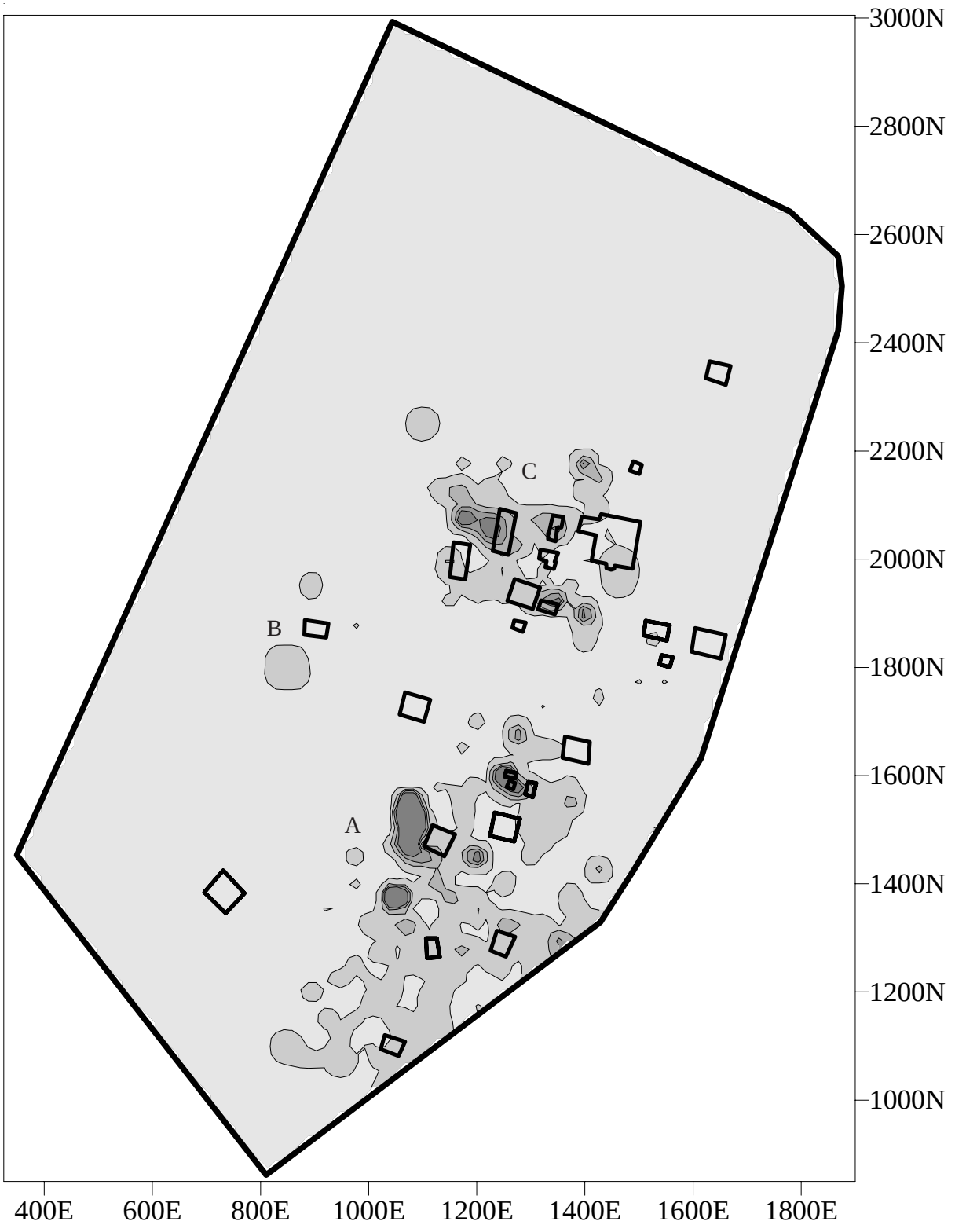


Figure 52 — Distribution of whiteware data.

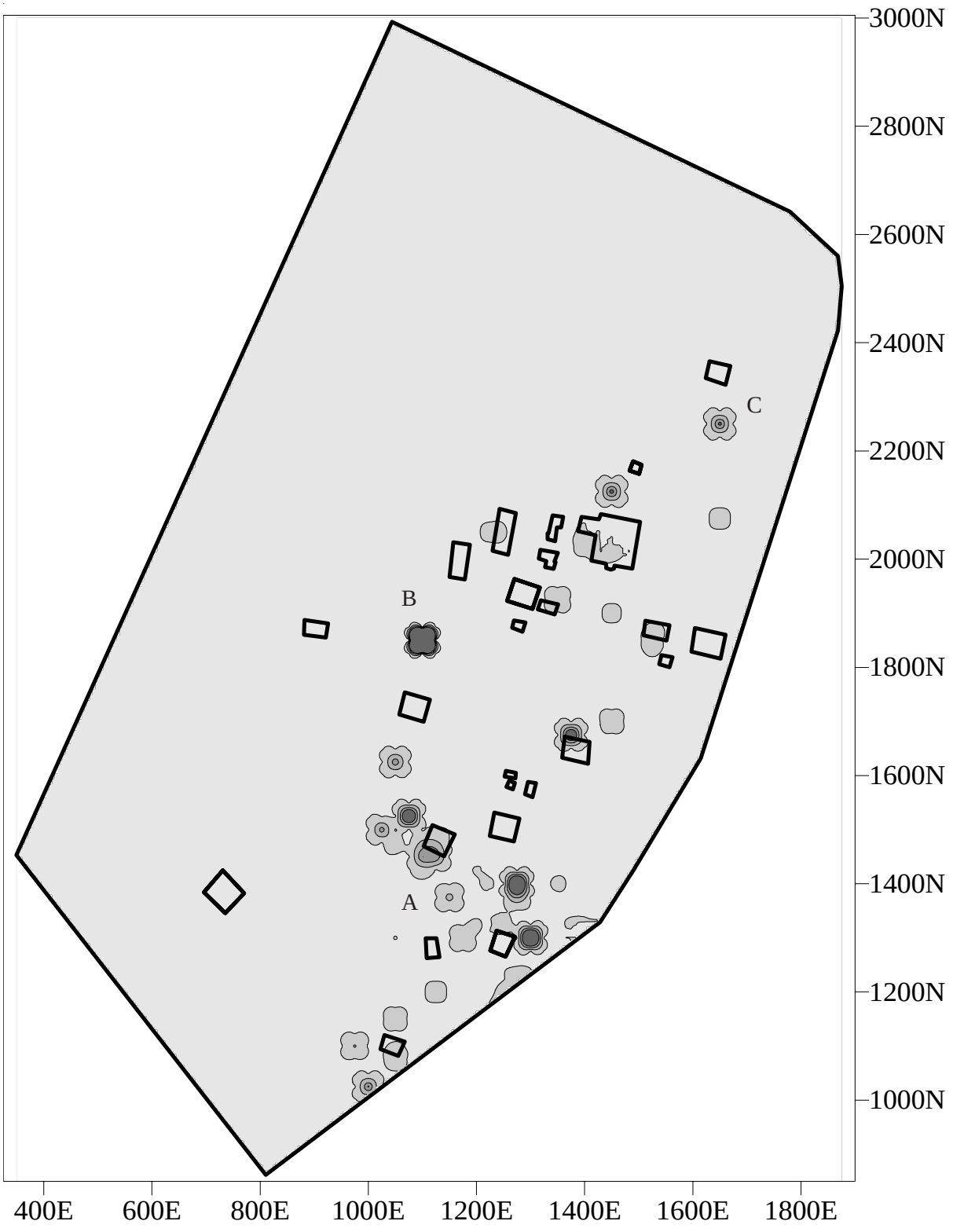


Figure 53 — Distribution of personal group data.

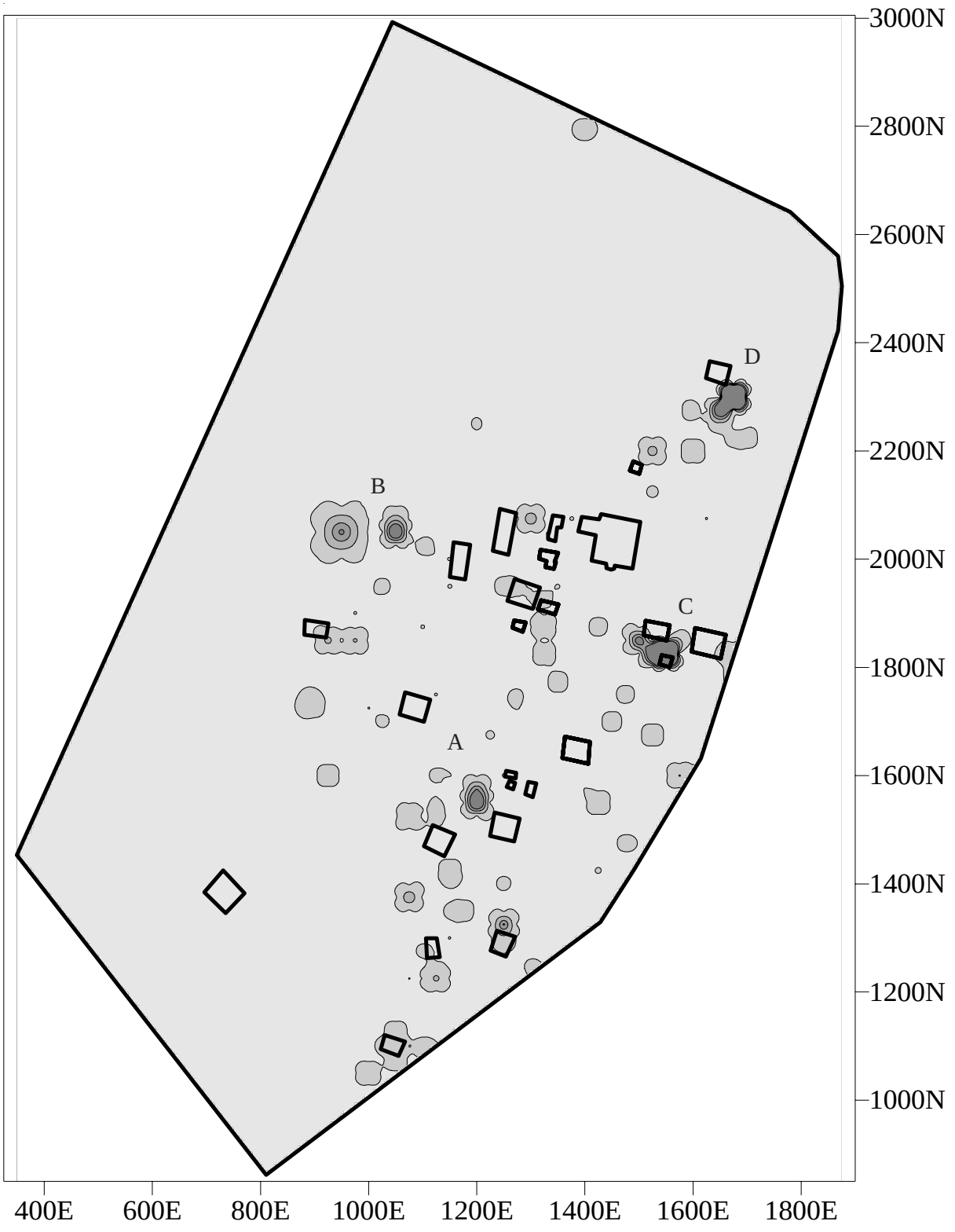


Figure 54 — Distribution of agriculture group data.

B, west of the cotton picker shed, is on the very rim of the positive auger tests. The plantation's eastern half yielded positive tests, while the western half, which has historically been under cultivation, yielded negative tests (see Figure 21). A high artifact concentration is understandably present between the carriage house, pigeonnier, and store (C). The highest concentration of agricultural material is around the blacksmith shop site (D). This is to be expected since agricultural tools were made and repaired in the shop.

INDUSTRIAL GROUP DISTRIBUTION

The industrial group represents three kinds of artifacts: bar iron, slag, and charcoal. The highest concentration (A) occurs at the blacksmith shop site (Figure 55; see Figure 4). Another high concentration is to its northeast. The only explanation for this is that materials from the blacksmith shop were perhaps deposited at this location.

NATIVE AMERICAN GROUP DISTRIBUTION

The twenty-four Native American artifacts (debitage, flakes, shatter, and vessel fragments) recovered from Oakland are too few in either number or location to constitute a site. Out of the total collection, these artifacts account for only 0.19 percent by count and 0.03 percent by weight. The locations of the artifacts are plotted in Figure 56.

CHRONOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

A subsurface auger-testing program does not facilitate temporal studies. While horizontal control is possible, vertical control is impossible. Artifacts, such as nail and ceramic types, do provide information useful for chronological considerations. However, the distribution maps generated for creamware, pearlware, whiteware, and cut and wire nails do not reveal any marked distribution pattern exclusive of the other artifacts that would reveal a site use chronology. We can assume that the plantation's domestic and manufacturing centers have remained fairly stable since its establishment. The archeological record corroborates historical documentation.

SUMMARY

Nine analytical groups, divided by function and use, were created to facilitate data manipulation and fulfill the project's requirements as outlined in Chapter 1. Within each group, the standardized weight of every artifact was used to generate distribution maps. These maps were created using the Surfer mapping program at an interval of one (-3 to +3). The maps were subsequently analyzed, and interpretations concerning their relevance or, in some instances, their irrelevance were presented. Many of the observations did not alter the present interpretation of Oakland Plantation, but others have raised questions that will be further discussed in Chapter 7.

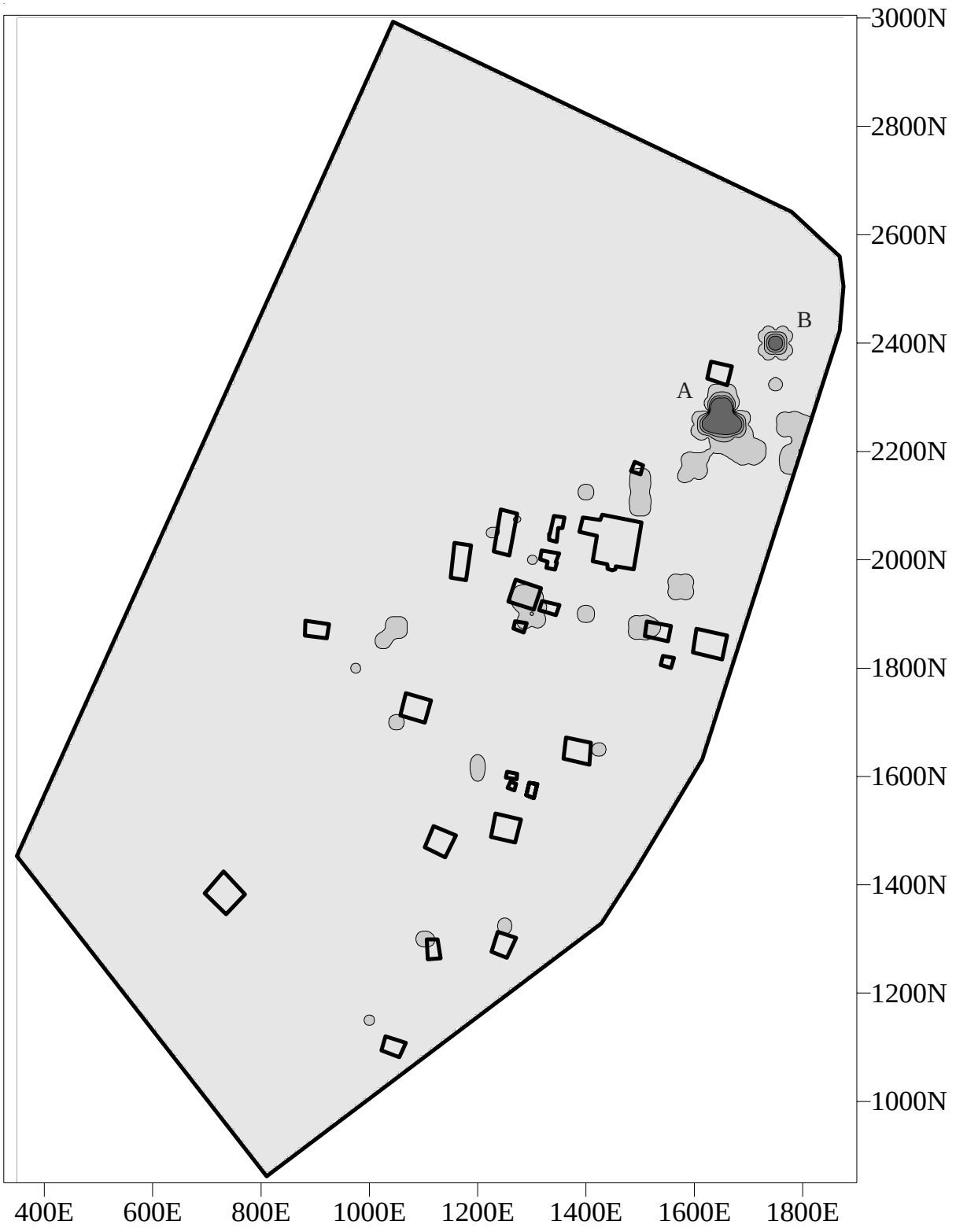


Figure 55 — Distribution of industrial group data.

Figure 56 — Distribution of Native American group data by artifact location.

Chapter 7
Observations and Conclusions

Investigations at Oakland Plantation present both important opportunities and problematic issues with respect to historic preservation and archeological and historical interpretation. Oakland Plantation has been owned by one family for seven generations and spans a time period beginning with French colonization and settlement to the present day. The potential for research opportunities at Oakland is high.

The comprehensive subsurface testing program has served and will continue to serve as a planning and research tool for the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and National Heritage Area. Field observations, artifact analysis and data manipulation have enabled us to produce tables, charts, and maps with which to interpret the plantation's archeological remains. The previous chapters have dealt with the establishment of the park, planning, field and laboratory methods, results, and interpretation. This summary chapter includes suggestions for future archeological investigations, whether instigated by maintenance concerns or park interpretation. The Surfer generated distribution maps exposed several areas of interest that warrant either further investigation or monitoring. Record books and interviews with persons associated with the plantation indicate that several structures, no longer standing, once existed within the complex. In the absence of historical maps that predate 1947, we must rely on oral history and the archeological record to postulate the locations of these structures.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The information generated by the auger-testing program, combined with field observations, historical research, and oral interviews, has resulted in questions concerning Oakland Plantation that may be answered by further archeological testing. These include but are not limited to the following:

Does the archeological record point to the original mule barn's location?

According to family tradition, the structure known as the mule barn once functioned as the smokehouse. It was converted into a mule barn after the original mule barn burned around 1927. In an interview conducted by Dr. Ann Patton Malone, Mayo Prud'homme stated that "from what I understand it [the old mule barn] was huge. It took up quite a bit of room back behind—just north—of what is known as the square crib, and south of what is now known as the mule barn. It's about where the cotton picker shed is located—the high-roofed shed—but it covered quite a spread of ground apparently" (Malone 1997:17).

On the 1966 aerial photograph/map (see Figure 19), the old mule barn site is located north of the square crib and southwest of the cotton picker shed. Two construction rubble features were also uncovered directly north of the square crib (Figure 27) on the 1775N line, 300 feet apart. The distribution maps in Chapter 6 show several artifact densities falling directly west of the location proposed on the 1966 photograph/map. As early as 1862, the plantation journals mention a stable, which may have been what was called the old mule barn. If the structure existed as early as 1862 and was located in the area suggested, this would account for the high distribution of cut nails in the area. There is a small shed in the vicinity of the distribution, but its size does not account for the presence of such a large amount of cut nails.

Two possible conclusions can be drawn from the information we possess. The first is that the barn was located in the position proposed on the 1966 photograph/map. Following the fire, the barn's remains were cleared or scattered westward.

The contours on the distribution maps represent not true locations, but statistically manipulated data sets. The second possibility is that the barn was located directly west of the position proposed on the 1966 photograph/map. Further testing in the area may prove useful.

Were the bricks used in building construction made on the plantation or purchased elsewhere? If the former, what was the extent of the brick-making operation at Oakland? Where was the brick kiln located? What does the archeological record reveal?

Many of the bricks used at Oakland were purchased. Plantation records, however, mention a brick kiln and note that on December 20, 1860, Prud'homme sold 3,000 bricks to a man in Natchitoches for $30.00 (Phanor Prud'homme Papers, Box 1, Folder 13). There are no conclusive indications of the kiln's site in the archeological record, but Kenneth Prud'homme believes it may have stood northwest of the seed house and cotton gin.

Are there any indicators in the archeological record of the location of the pre–Civil War cotton gin? What was the construction date of the gin? What does the written record reveal?

Three gins once operated on the plantation—two on the west and one on the east side of Cane River. Two of the gins were on land today owned by the National Park Service. One was built prior to 1860. While being interviewed, Mayo Prud'homme stated that "the pre–Civil War gin was back over here north of the Big [main] House" (Malone 1997:21). Although the exact construction date for the "new" gin, located southwest of the main house, is unknown, it was under construction and in use by at least 1860, at which time the family was storing baled "cotton in [the] old gin [unreadable word] room" (Phanor Prud'homme Papers, Box 2, Folder 30, p. 62). In 1864, the old gin was burned down during the Red River Campaign. There are no structural remains of the old gin on the ground surface, but the structural distribution map reveals an isolated concentration of artifacts in the north area of the plantation complex (see Figure 45), which supports the oral history.

Are there any surface or subsurface structural remains of the cotton gin built in 1860 and, if so, what is the extent? What does the documentation reveal?

The 1860 plantation journal contains references to the cotton gin during construction and use. In March, the overseer Seneca Pace made the following notations in the journal: "work on gin cistern; finish bricking gin cistern; move boards at gin finish cistern" (Phanor Prud'homme Papers, Box 2, Folder 30, p. 11). In June, the laborers "put large timbers in place" and "set [the] gin stands to their place[s]" (Phanor Prud'homme Papers, Box 2, Folder 30, pp. 26, 28). Work continued during July, August, and September. Journal entries indicated that by October the new gin was in use.

The cotton gin remained in use at least until 1940. While being interviewed, Mayo Prud'homme stated that "prior to 1941, my dad and grandfather had a gin there, and they had a diesel-powered… single-cylinder Fairbanks-Morris engine in it…. You had the seed house, the gin building, and the boiler room. The boiler was for an old steam engine that used to power the engine before they went diesel" (Malone 1997:22).

Structural remains of the gin exist today. In 1998, Bennie Keel and Jason Raupp mapped and photographed the large brick cistern at the site of the cotton gin. Although the building is no longer standing, the engine stands are still in place. Limited formal excavations were conducted at the site in 1998, but additional testing will be required to obtain cultural information.

What was the original configuration of the slave quarters? Where were they located? How many cabins were in the quarters? How were they constructed? What changes in occupation occurred on the plantation following the Civil War? Did tenants relocate and occupy the cabins they inhabited during slavery? Did they build new ones? How do the material cultures of slaves and tenants compare and contrast?

Three slave/tenant cabins are still extant on the property purchased by the National Park Service. The cook's cabin was relocated and used as a fishing camp. The remaining two cabins are south of

the overseer's house. According to the structural assessment, these cabins were built sometime between the 1850s and the 1860s.

The ruins of a fourth cabin are visible directly southeast of the overseer's house. The cabin has traditionally been described as a post-in-the-ground house. Archeological testing, however, has revealed that it was actually a *maison-sur-sill* and bousillage structure supported by brick piers (Keel and Miller 1999). According to a 1969 report by Craig A. Estes, an architecture student at Louisiana State University, the cabin ruin was still standing in 1969. He stated that it was "the single remaining slave cabin on the plantation" (Estes 1969:5). If his information is correct, the two houses south of the overseer's house were built after the Civil War. These two houses pose additional research questions.

- If these houses were built before the Civil War and were not relocated following emancipation, then the slave quarters were configured not geometrically but at irregular angles. Did the planner deliberately design the quarters to be irregular, or were slaves given a choice in the placement of their homes (Vlach 1993)? How much freedom were slaves given in defining their personal space at Oakland?

- If the houses were built prior to the Civil War and were relocated, then the configuration is in question. Several former tenants, interviewed by Dr. Malone, recalled the cabins they once occupied, which have since been demolished. Distribution maps reveal a large scattering of structure group and food group artifacts around the existing structures. Given the close proximity of the buildings, it is difficult to postulate the location of additional structures. Furthermore, the Prud'homme family holdings extended across Highway 119 and across Cane River. Slave/tenant cabins were once located on property not owned by the National Park Service. Archeological investigations, interviews, and documentary studies may reveal whether former tenants inhabited former slave houses or if new ones were built after emancipation. Building new houses and restructuring or relocating the slave cabins may reflect a conscious decision on the part of former slaves to separate their slave experiences from their new lives as freedmen.

A comparison of slave and tenant material culture may indicate more affluence in personal goods during slavery than during tenancy. Depending on the attitude of the master or mistress, African-American slave artisans had opportunities to contract their free time as laborers. Sometimes slaves were provided time and a space to grow gardens and raise livestock for their personal use, to sell, or to barter. Following the Civil War and emancipation, black artisans presented competition for white artisans in the stressed southern economy and were thus tolerated less than they were during slavery.

Where was the blacksmith shop located?

This research question was answered and, in so doing, the validity of the auger-testing program was demonstrated. The industrial group data (charcoal, slag, and bar iron), recovered during the 1997 season, were used to generate a distribution map. This map then served as a guide in locating the blacksmith shop foundation during the 1998 summer field season. As Figure 57 illustrates, the guide proved to be an accurate one. Both the interior and exterior extents of the foundation were filled with charcoal, coal, slag, and wrought agricultural and blacksmith tools. The data that was recovered from the blacksmith shop will be presented in a future report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cook's House

As stated in Chapter 3, the cook's house should be stabilized and preserved immediately. This excellent example of bousillage construction is deteriorating quickly. Besides destruction caused by the elements, bees are extensively damaging the walls by boring holes into the bousillage. This house could be used as an interpretive tool not only

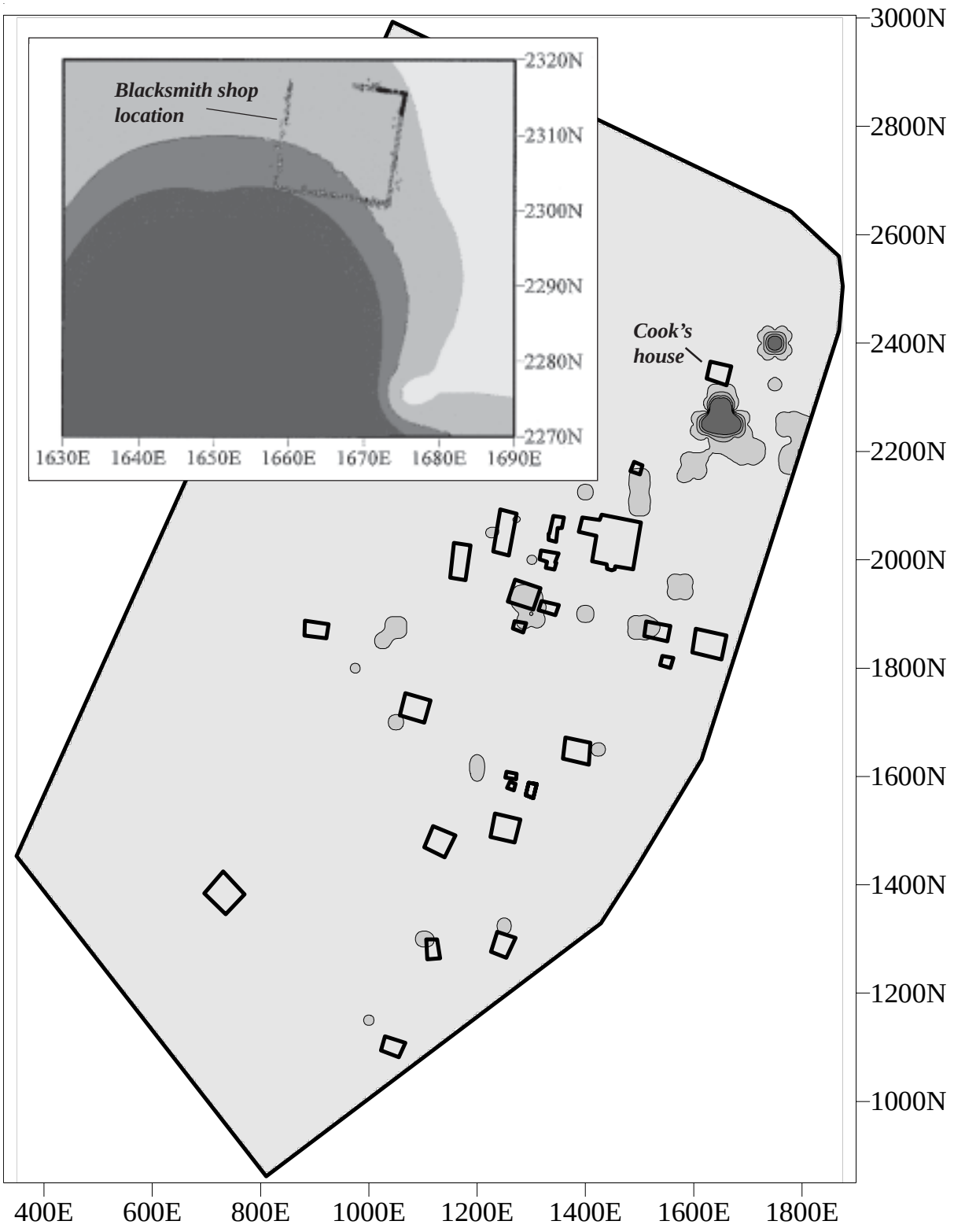


Figure 57 — Inset showing the blacksmith shop location just south of the cook's house.

for Oakland Plantation but also for the Cane River area. The building's features—exposed barreaux, vertical and diagonal beams, bousillage, and notching, for example—are excellent illustrations of the construction techniques used on the plantation.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places nomination should be amended to include the archeological component at Oakland Plantation.

CONCLUSIONS

The information recovered by investigators during the auger-testing program and presented in this report indicates the locations of archeological deposits throughout the plantation complex. The investigations should sufficiently meet and exceed Section 106 compliance for all of Oakland's cultural resource preservation and management issues arising in the future.

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